

Speed Reading Practice for Summer Seminar: No. 2

Name: _____ / Date: __/__/__ Score: __ / 3 🕒 7 min

以下の英文を読んで、本文の内容と一致するものを①～⑧の中から 3 つ選びなさい。

The Changing Role of Public Libraries

For many people, a public library is simply a quiet building filled with books. Traditionally, libraries have collected printed materials and allowed local residents to borrow them without charge. This role remains important, especially for people who cannot easily afford to purchase books. However, public libraries in many communities are changing. As information becomes increasingly available through digital devices, libraries are expanding their services and reconsidering how they can best support the public.

Some people have predicted that the Internet will eventually make libraries unnecessary. After all, enormous amounts of information can now be found online within seconds. Electronic books can be downloaded instantly, and students can search for articles without leaving home. Nevertheless, access to online information is not equal. Some households lack reliable Internet connections, while others cannot afford computers or tablets. Even people who own digital devices may not know how to judge whether online information is accurate. Libraries can help reduce these differences by providing equipment, Internet access, and guidance.

Modern libraries increasingly offer support for digital skills. Staff members may teach visitors how to send emails, complete online forms, create résumés, or protect personal information on the Internet. Such assistance can be especially valuable for older adults, recent immigrants, and people seeking employment. Government services, job applications, and medical appointments are often managed online, so limited digital ability can make everyday life surprisingly difficult. In this sense, librarians do more than organize books; they help people participate more fully in modern society.

Libraries are also becoming places where people create things rather than merely receive information. Some have introduced recording rooms, sewing machines, three-dimensional printers, or tools for simple scientific experiments. These areas are sometimes called “makerspaces.” Visitors may use them to develop practical skills, work on personal projects, or test new

ideas. The purpose is not to turn every library into a factory. Instead, makerspaces provide access to equipment that many individuals could not afford to own themselves.

35 Another important function of libraries is to offer public space. In many cities, people are expected to spend money when they enter a café, entertainment facility, or shopping center. A library, by contrast, usually allows people to remain without purchasing anything. Students can study, parents can read with young children, and individuals who live alone can
40 spend time in a safe shared environment. Libraries therefore provide something increasingly rare: an indoor public place that welcomes people regardless of their income.

However, the expansion of library services creates challenges. Budgets are limited, and libraries cannot provide every possible program or piece of
45 equipment. If too much money is spent on new technology, collections of books may suffer. Staff members may also need additional training to manage unfamiliar services. Furthermore, not every new activity is suitable for every community. A small rural library and a large city library may serve populations with very different needs.

50 For this reason, libraries must listen carefully to local residents. A community with many young families may benefit from children's reading programs, while an area with high unemployment may need career support and computer training. In neighborhoods where many languages are spoken, libraries may provide translated materials or conversation classes.
55 Successful libraries do not simply copy fashionable programs from elsewhere. They identify local problems and use their resources to respond to them.

The future of public libraries does not depend on abandoning books. Printed materials remain valuable for education, enjoyment, and access to reliable knowledge. At the same time, libraries can no longer be understood
60 only as storage places for books. Their broader purpose is to connect people with information, tools, skills, and one another. As society changes, libraries must change as well, while preserving their basic principle: knowledge and opportunity should be available to everyone.

語数:約 525 語

WPM Over 150 を目指す [500 語レベル]

内容一致問題

次の①～⑧のうち、本文の内容と一致するものを 3 つ選びなさい。

- ① Libraries can reduce inequalities in access to digital information by providing equipment, Internet connections, and assistance in evaluating online sources.
- ② The passage argues that printed books have become unnecessary because electronic information is now cheaper, faster, and more reliable in every situation.
- ③ Modern librarians are mainly responsible for repairing digital devices and completing all online applications on behalf of library visitors.
- ④ Makerspaces allow people to use equipment they may not be able to purchase themselves and to develop practical skills or personal projects.
- ⑤ Public libraries differ from cafés and shopping centers because visitors are normally required to pay an entrance fee instead of buying food or products.
- ⑥ The author recommends that all libraries introduce exactly the same programs and equipment so that residents receive equal services throughout the country.
- ⑦ According to the passage, expanding library services creates no serious difficulties because modern technology reduces costs and requires little staff training.
- ⑧ Libraries should adapt their services to local needs while continuing to provide printed materials and equal access to knowledge and opportunity.

実戦的な時間配分

合計:7 分

問題文・タイトル確認:10 秒

本文通読:3 分 30 秒

①～⑧の判断:2 分 40 秒

本文に戻って確認:30 秒

マーク・最終確認:10 秒

WPM Over 150 を目指す [500 語レベル]

1. traditionally[trədɪʃənəli]	伝統的に
2. resident[réziðənt]	住民
3. without charge[wiðáut tʃá:rdʒ]	無料で
4. afford[əfó:rd]	～する余裕がある、～を買う余裕がある
5. expand[ɪkspænd]	～を拡大する
6. reconsider[rɪ:kənsídər]	～を再検討する
7. predict[pridíkt]	～を予測する
8. enormous[ínó:rməs]	莫大な、非常に大きい
9. reliable[riláiəbl]	信頼できる
10. accurate[ækjərət]	正確な
11. reduce[ridjú:s]	～を減らす
12. guidance[gáidəns]	指導、助言
13. digital skill[dídʒitəl skíl]	デジタル技能
14. résumé[rézəmèi]	履歴書
15. personal information[pé:rsənəl ìnfərméiʃən]	個人情報
16. immigrant[íməgrənt]	移民
17. employment[implóimənt]	雇用、仕事
18. participate[pɑ:rtísəpèit]	参加する
19. makerspace[méikərspèis]	工作・創作活動用の共同空間
20. practical skill[præktikəl skíl]	実用的な技能
21. facility[fəsíləti]	施設
22. regardless of[rigá:rdləs əv]	～に関係なく
23. budget[bádzit]	予算
24. population[pəpjələiʃən]	人口、住民集団
25. preserve[prizé:rv]	～を守る、維持する