

Skills for equality

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Umbrella 2011

DG/ILIG: Equalities issues in libraries

Skills and professionalism

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Global inequality, 2006

- The richest 1% of adults own 40% of the world's assets
- The richest 2% of adults own 50% of the world's assets
- The richest 10% of adults own 85% of the world's assets ⁽¹⁾

Power, politics & equality

- Inequality in libraries reflects inequality in society
- Service and staffing aspects
- Skills & tools for equality do exist
- In/action decided by reality of economic, political, social power
- Know the politics of inequality
- People power can change reality

The law

- Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- “Desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society” - WSIS (1)

Role of libraries

- A public library provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services
- It is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, [sexuality] religion, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment [IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines] (1)

The challenge: turn ideas into action

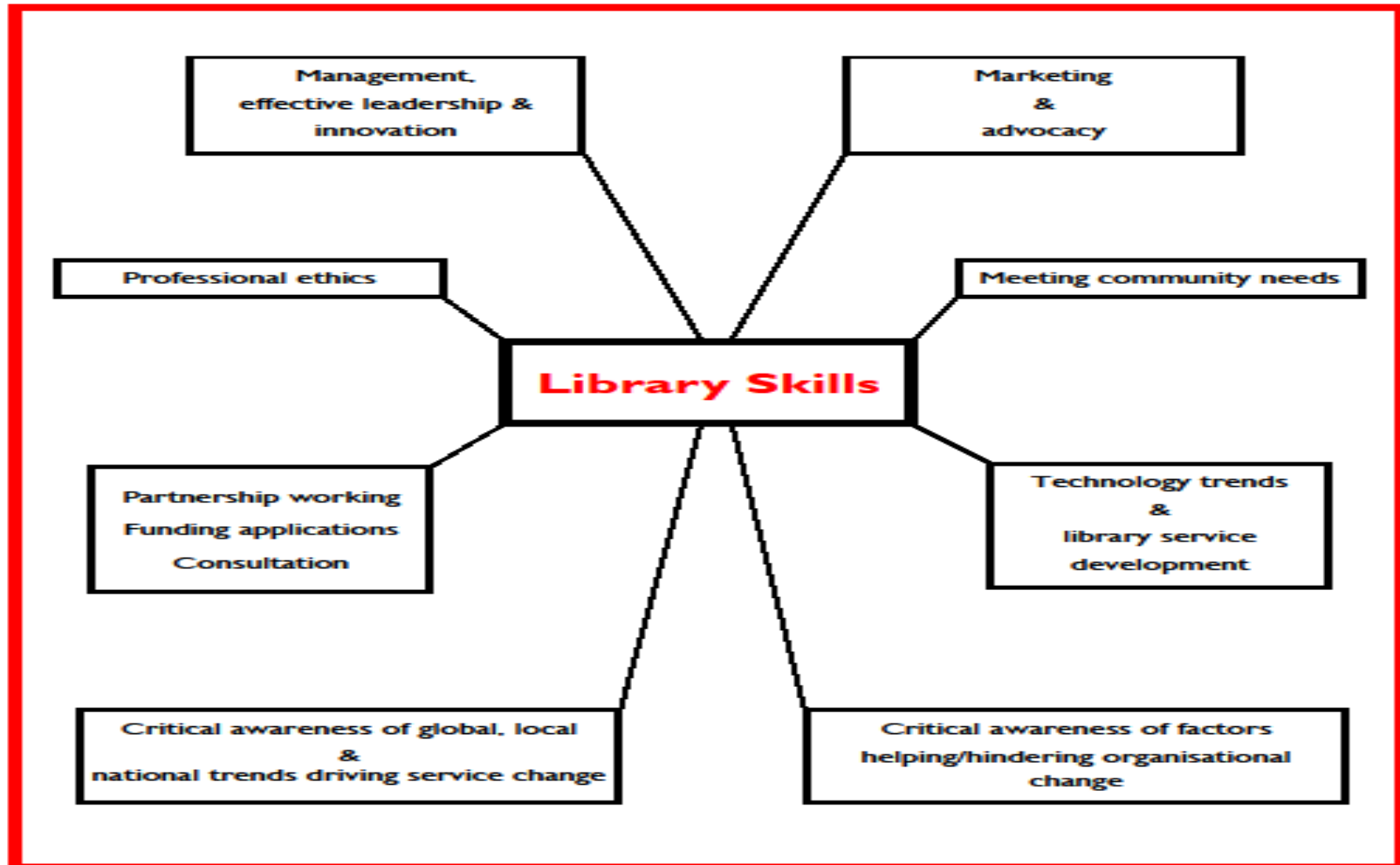
- Accept equality as service vision
- Create awareness & skills
- Plan to implement vision
- Act – learn by doing
- Evaluate, reflect & correct
- Involve staff and communities at each stage

Seeing the bigger picture

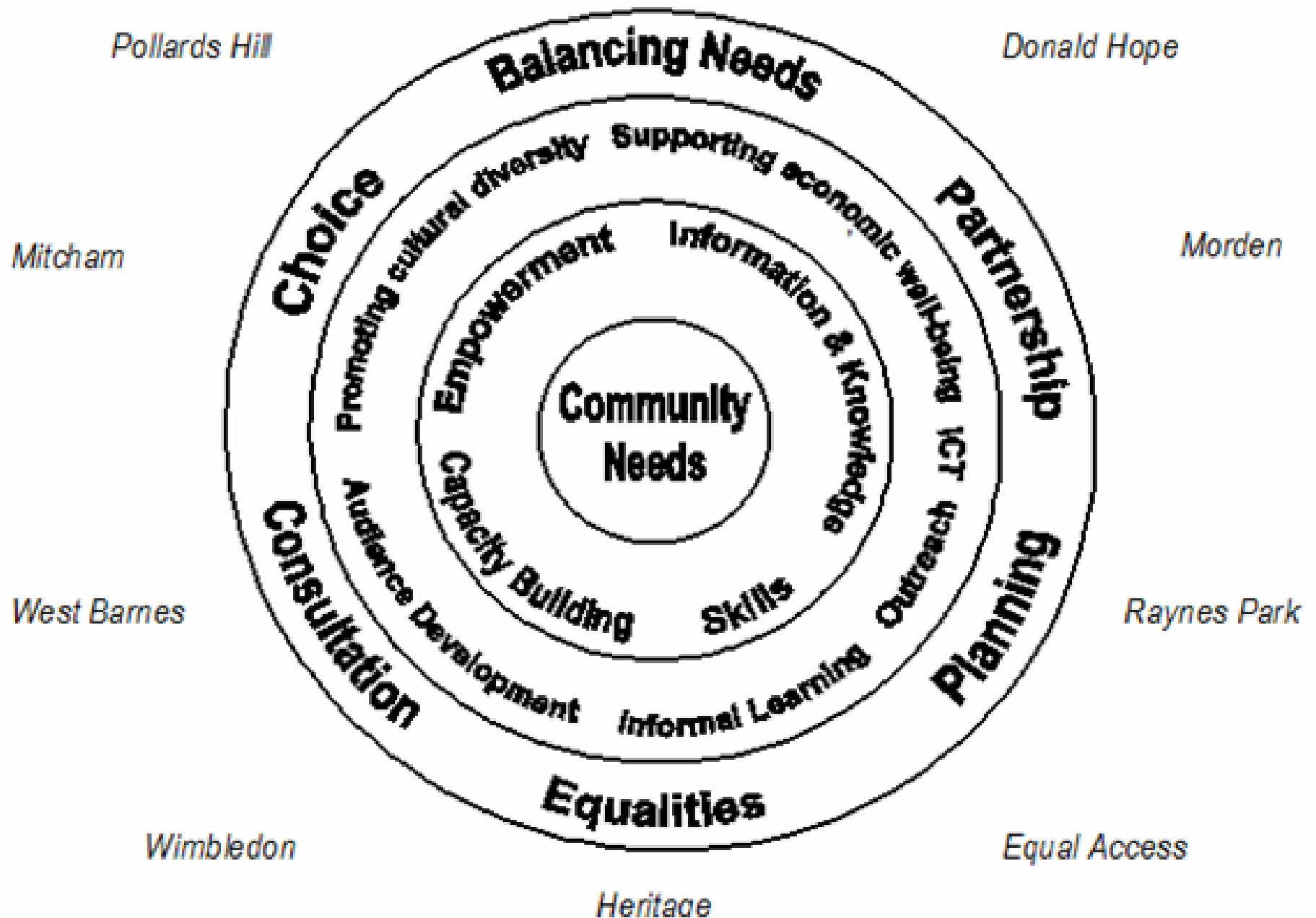
Library skills for a globalised world: relevant skills for public library staff

Library Skills Chart

New curriculum development to complement existing curricula

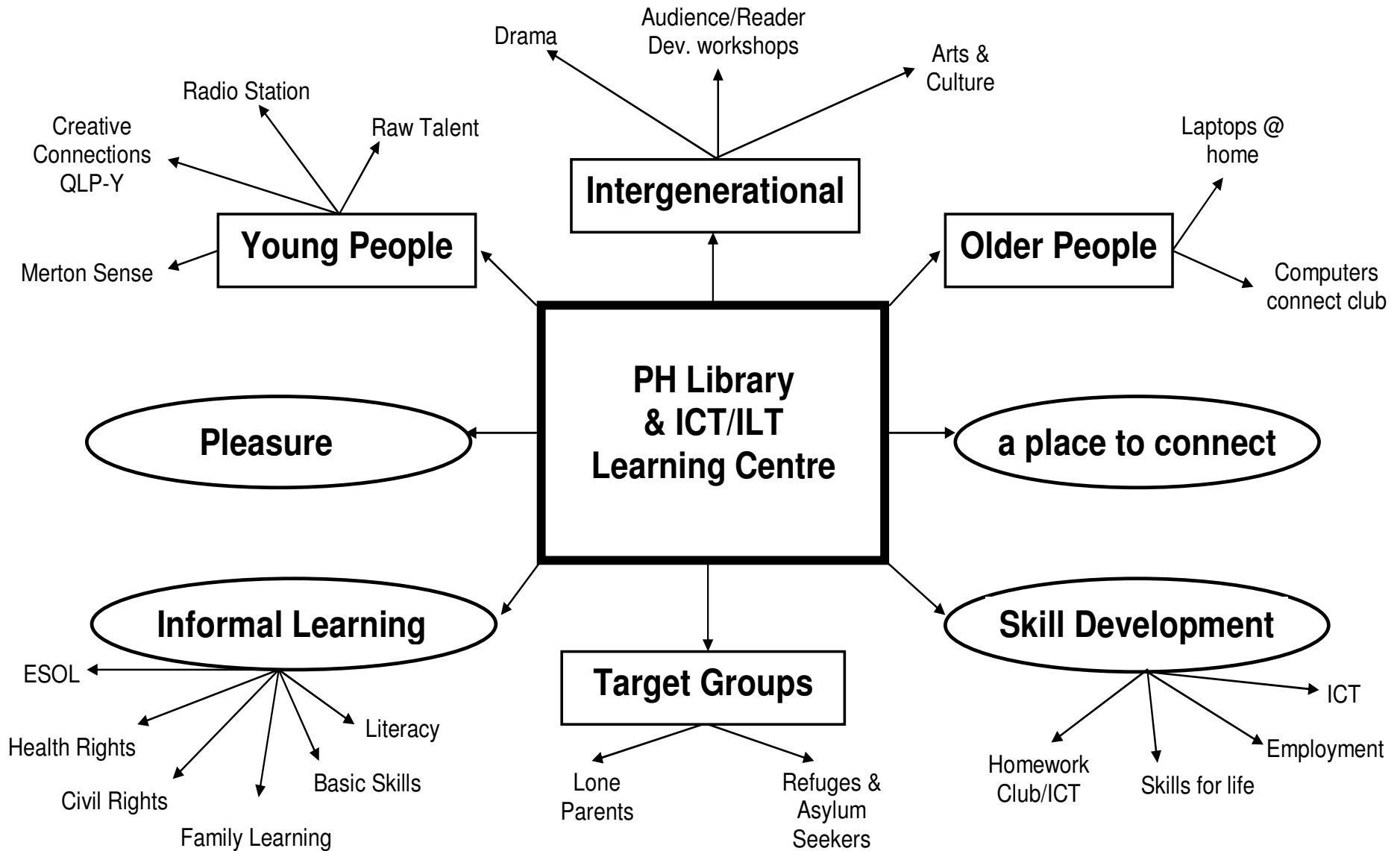


Start with needs, decide on principles (1)



Case-based learning

Creative CommuniTy @ Pollards Hill



Partners: Library & Heritage Service – (projects: Young People; Older People) COLC; PH; MI; Merton Sense; Merton Youth Service;

Equality starts with where you are

- Unite for equality for all; self organisation for each aspect
- It is a struggle, not a gift
- Involve TUs & communities
- The spark of social change starts somewhere. Why not in libraries?
- Equality starts where you are