Day 1 - Opening Session including Chair's report to the Community and Assembly of Members

Question	Answer(s)
Do you see the pandemic as an opportunity to accelerate the transformational shift or are we likely to tread water?	The current situation is definitely an opportunity to promote transformations we are aiming at. A crisis situation can often mean the agenda for senior decision-makers changes and they may be more willing to countenance new investment in areas that help to address problems.
With open research and learning making increased use of open source technical solutions, how do libraries exploit that space alongside?	That is a really good question. Although there have been really nice open source library systems, they have never really taken off in many countries, as far as I'm aware. The exceptions to that are repository systems like DSpace. I am all in favour of use of OSS, and have seen it work well in experimental areas, in particular. They can often give you more agility and customisability. However, it does require more in-house resource to make work well, in my experience.
As a lone metadata librarian I feel we've outsourced a number of our potentially transferable skills - do you feel the sector can reclaim and repurpose some of these skills and is the training for this out there?	Maintaining a strong skills base is absolutely crucial. I agree about outsourcing expertise – a lot of this has happened over recent years in order to contain costs. I think this ought to be a combination of outsourced and in-house expertise. Getting the balance right is, of course, very tricky and it can sometimes mean accepting a rather more standardised offering than you could provide (albeit at higher costs) in-house. Collaboration across libraries can often help, in my experience.
this change should to start in our Librarianship Schools, how their programms must be modified?	Absolutely. As a professor in an information school teaching future library and information professionals, I agree this is a top priority. At Sheffield, this is certainly important to us and we make a great effort to ensure that curriculum is in line with practice in a whole variety of ways. I regularly talk to professionals (formally and informally) to ensure our teaching is aligned with current requirements. Requires ongoing prioritisation and effort, of course.
should be the library a data-driven organization?	Managing research data should, I believe, be a key priority for the library. RDM is a relatively new area of service that fits well into the overall library portfolio. Whilst it does require new skills and new mindsets, it is a way which the library can transform itself and maintain its relevance.
I might have missed it, but did you mention Library Labs? They seem to cover some of the aspects you mentioned.	If you mean something like maker spaces, I agree this is really important. Places where libraries can experiment and encourage their users to do so are, I think, really important part of this idea is the library as platform.