Should there be digital libraries or physical libraries?

According to the Research Institute of Australia (RIA), over 50% of libraries have switched to digital libraries instead of physical libraries. And it is not just Australia. Analysing research from the Bureau of Statistics, researchers have concluded that out of the two million libraries in the world, over 40% have transgressed gradually to online libraries. But are digital libraries really that beneficial? In my opinion, it is necessary that we consider physical libraries instead. They can be beneficial because of communication, study, and environmental impacts.

Primarily, physical libraries can be used as community hubs. Physical libraries have been known to be used as a talkative place for all ages. Starting conversations with people you don’t know and learning about their lives has been proved by multiple studies to actually help you in the long run. Using their lives as examples can lead to developing life saving skills, which can help you for things in the future, such as jobs or money.

Furthermore, these types of libraries can be used for studying. Physical libraries are renowned for their quiet spaces and calm learning areas. Instead of using digital libraries entirely, we can do a mix. We could install computers when also applying a wide range of sources, like artifacts or books. This could be really helpful as students can learn more and enhance their knowledge by looking at a diversity of sources for studying.

Finally, physical libraries can be more beneficial in terms of environmental impacts. Although you may think that digital libraries are more environmentally friendly, studies have shown that the material they use on books can actually be enhanced to be more reusable, and can last for a few decades, even a whole human’s average lifespan! This can help as you don’t need to keep buying books in case one breaks.

In conclusion, it is clear that physical libraries are better than digital libraries. This is because they can be used for communicating, studying. In terms of environmental impacts, although devices are more environmentally friendly, we can make books even more reusable by enhancing its lifespan to decades.