Jewish Libraries role in informal learning

Meeting Jewish Literacy needs
Maimonides’ Eight Levels of Charity - Applied to Jewish Literacy

- Lowest level is telling someone to just go use Google or another search engine

- Level 8 — The donor is pained by the act of giving
  Helping someone find information but making it obvious it is a major inconvenience.

- Level 7 — The donor gives less than he should but does so cheerfully
  Cheerfully giving only the minimum information of what was asked for but knowing that the person has more questions and makes no attempts to help further.

- Level 6 — The donor gives after being solicited
  These are the people that have the training, resources, and/or ability to teach, but want the “honor” of being asked before providing help.
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- **Level 5 — The donor gives without being solicited**
  These are the folks who donate for every occasion to the “Library Fund” and also donates books to the library for the larger community’s use.

- **Level 4 — The recipient knows the donor, but the donor does not know the recipient**
  These are the books with the named book plates or other identifying markings (PJ Library).

- **Level 3 — The donor knows the recipient, but the recipient does not know the donor**
  Donors provide quality books/resources with specific groups of the community in mind.
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- **Level 2 — Neither the donor nor the recipient knows the other**
  
  This is a library with curated physical and online resources available, trained staff maintains resources and ensures all resources are easily found.

- **Level 1 — The donor gives the recipient the wherewithal to become self-supporting**
  
  Library fully funded with a curated collection meeting a wide spectrum of needs and managed with a trained staff that also teaches literacy classes.