Seven habits of effective library boards

1. **Define a clear vision and mission.**
   - Make sure the vision and mission are aligned with the goals of the library and the community.
   - Regularly review and update the vision and mission to reflect the changing needs of the community.

2. **Develop a strategic plan.**
   - Establish measurable goals and objectives to guide the library's operations and initiatives.
   - Ensure the strategic plan is communicated and understood by all library stakeholders.

3. **Identify and prioritize needs and opportunities.**
   - Conduct thorough research to identify the library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
   - Prioritize initiatives based on community input and resources available.

4. **Select the right people for the job.**
   - Recruit and retain a diverse and capable team to support the library's mission.
   - Provide ongoing professional development to enhance staff capabilities.

5. **Develop a strong financial plan.**
   - Develop a comprehensive budget that aligns with the library's strategic plan.
   - Monitor and control expenses to ensure the financial health of the library.

6. **FOCUS on core services.**
   - Prioritize core services that align with the library's mission and community needs.
   - Regularly assess and improve core services to maintain customer satisfaction.

7. **Lead by example.**
   - Demonstrate a commitment to the library's mission and values.
   - Model the behavior expected of all library staff and board members.

The above habits are essential for effective library boards. By focusing on these principles, library boards can ensure that their libraries are well-positioned to meet the needs of their communities and provide high-quality services.