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The Future of Intellectual Access in the Academic Library

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The Future of Intellectual Access in the Academic Library

A *holistic* view of the library, through classification, cataloging and patron use.
The Future of Intellectual Access in the Academic Library

- Access to academic and scholarly journals is very difficult when you are not enrolled in a program. There is no individual access to Jstor and others. And, access to some material effectively costs thousands (of dollars). (I am) wondering if the maker of Gutenberg press is rolling in his grave for this. (Concerned patron)
The Future of Intellectual Access in the Academic Library

- It is not so much intellectual access that bothers me, it is the possible reduction in research publishing without support from the major publishers. That said, with Open Access, Project Gutenberg and the Google book scanning project, I think more and more licensed databases will need to change their models. (Concerned librarian)
Charles Jewett

- “A catalog of a library is, strictly speaking, but a list of the titles of the books, which it contains.”
- Believed his method would give scholars access to important books, point out differences in intellectual fields, and generally act as an aid to the evolution of knowledge.
Charles Cutter’s Objectives of a Bibliographic System

- **finding objective**
  - to enable a person to find a book

- **collocating objective**
  - to show what the library has

- **choice objective**
  - to assist in the choice of a book
Where do we go from here?

- We are competing with commercial outlets and the portability of information.
  - Mobile Learning In The Real World, February 18, 2010, 1-2 PM EST (mobi21)
- The only way to change this is to adapt to a holistic approach to library usage.
- The library future is the past.
We are competing with commercial outlets and the portability of information.

- In 1973, referring to the fall of BookWorld, William McPherson wrote, "Will publishing become all carnival and circuses?"
Quite the opposite...

- In addition to the “classic” print materials available, we now have e-versions.

Courtesy of Amazon.com
The only way to change this is to adapt to a holistic approach to library usage.

Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Meeting
Fall 2007

- Artemis Kirk presented a futuristic library organizational chart to jumpstart discussion on 21st-century research library areas of priority including areas of increasing prominence such as scholarly community, teaching and learning, e-science, and creation platforms in the library. All of these areas have connection to scholarship potential.

Artemis Kirk’s Organization Flow Chart
The library future is the past.

A look to philosophical fathers...

- At the University of Tennessee Hoskins Library they are focused on scholarly inquiry with grand spaces appropriate for reflection, study, and the fine art of conversation in the tradition of the 17th- and 18th-century salons of Europe.

Ranganathan’s Laws of Library Science

- Books are for use.
- For every reader, his or her book.
- For every book, its reader.
- Save the time of the reader.
- A library is a growing organism.
“Since multiplicity of helpful order among specific subjects is a fact independent of library classification - a fact to be reckoned with in arrangement - how are we to provide for it? It is a case of arranging concrete materials - books and other kindred materials - in such a way that one kind of arrangement presents itself to one person and another kind to another person. To secure this by pressing a button is obviously possible only in the world of fancy; it is not possible in the world of reality.”

Ranganathan, (1951). Philosophy of Library Classification
WorldCat Local

A wealth of information can be obtained from this little search box/button.

“…pressing a button is obviously possible only in the world of fancy; it is not possible in the world of reality.”

Courtesy of Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
Faceted Classification

- as proposed by Ranganathan (1957).
- Using faceted classification, a developer can create a set of facets to provide multiple access points.
Faceted Classification

- To help users get to the right resources, libraries are adding facets to narrow searches
- ranking results to show users the most likely items first
- adding book covers, tables of contents, and reviews that will give the user more information about the item than the facts in the catalog record
- and using other techniques.
Faceted Classification

- Faceted classification has become a reality and is present in many “catalog” systems.
- Open WorldCat
- *Relation Browser* project, at the [University of North Carolina](https://www.unc.edu)
- *Flamenco* project, [University of California, Berkeley](https://www.berkeley.edu)
Further Advancements

Beyond Faceted Classification, beyond Cutter’s Rules, beyond learning salons and learning commons...as catalogers we see metadata and their functions.
Metadata is…

- Structured information about resources (including both digital and non-digital resources). Metadata can be used to help support a wide range of operations on those resources.

- the most common operation is discovery and retrieval of resources.
Functions of Metadata

Library bibliographic metadata has a number of functions:

- it acts as an inventory of the library’s holdings
- it aids in the discovery of those holdings in libraries large enough that the collection is not entirely known to the user
- it acts as a surrogate for the item itself, which is often stored on a shelf with only its spine visible or in closed stacks.
Clifford A. Lynch

“A university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution.”

Lynch, C. A. (2003, February)
What is an Institutional Repository?

Institutional repositories—digital collections that capture and preserve the intellectual output of university communities—respond to two strategic issues facing academic institutions:

- They provide a central component in reforming scholarly communication by stimulating innovation in a disaggregated publishing structure; and
- They serve as tangible indicators of an institution’s quality, thus increasing its visibility, prestige, and public value.

...they have the ability to change disciplinary paradigms.
Objectives of IR

The four main objectives for having an institutional repository are:

- to create global visibility for an institution's scholarly research
- to collect content in a single location
- to provide open access to institutional research output by self-archiving it
- to store and preserve other institutional digital assets, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost ("grey") literature (e.g., theses or technical reports)
What is Open Access (OA)?

- literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions...
IRs and Open Archive

- allow for the dissemination of information among the scholarly community, much more rapidly than traditional print publications.
views such solutions (OA and IR) as the first step in radical transformation of scholarly publishing whereby authors reclaim control over their intellectual property and the publishing process

Harnad, S., 1999
The Driving Force in the Academic Institution

- ...will be the library/repository. And, that library should become the holding area for the output of the scholars of the university. From this output, students can study the works of their educators and their educators before them.
References


Coyle, K. (2010). "Understanding the Semantic Web: Bibliographic Data and Metadata" *Library Technology Reports*


http://www.dlib.org/dlib/december99/12harnad.html

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