

**In the Belly of the Whale:  
What Reference Collections  
Look Like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  

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**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

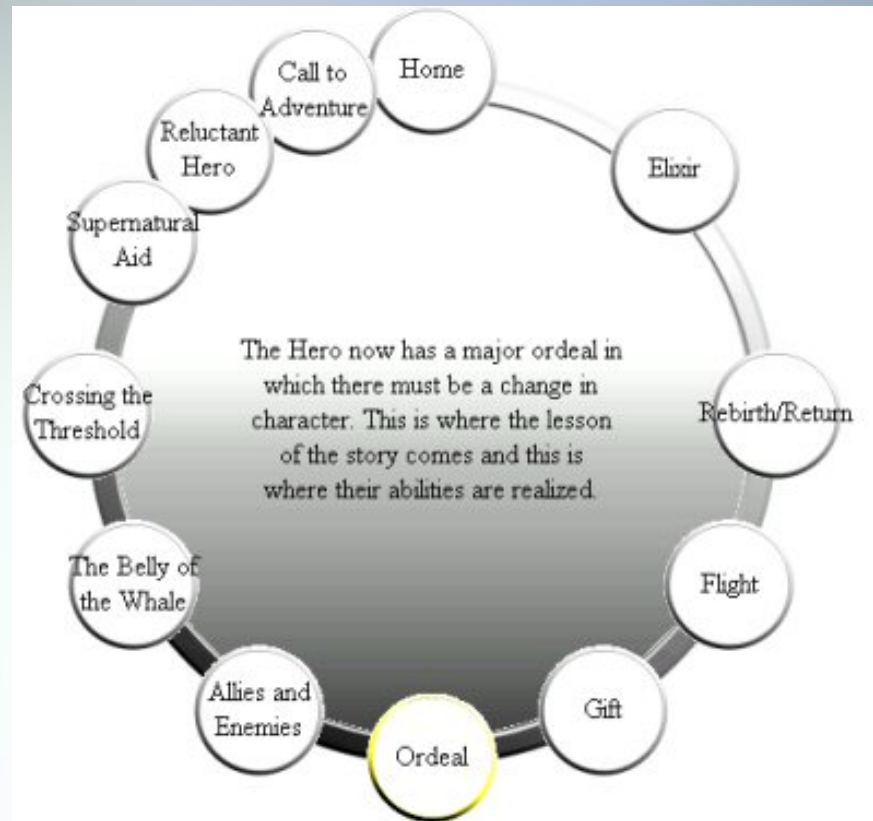
# Presenters

- **Millie Jackson,**  
**Collection Development**  
**Librarian**  
**Grand Valley State**  
**University**

## Call to Adventure

- The hero (the librarian) is called to adventure by some external event or messenger (publishers, societies, a new generation of students).

# The hero's journey



From [www.monomyth.org](http://www.monomyth.org)

# An Ordeal or an Adventure?



How we react and tell the story  
may make the difference.

## The Traditional Story

- Reference is in person, face to face
- Classroom instruction on how to evaluate sources
- Print only resources

## Crossing the threshold

- To develop a new story we need to know the tradition and think about the future.

## Who am I?

- What are the qualities I possess as a reference librarian?
- What kind of positive story can I think of that reflects these qualities?

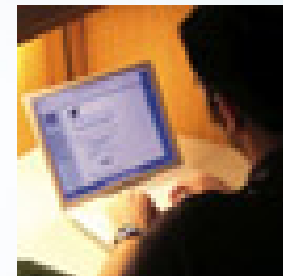


## Who are we?

- What are our beliefs about reference and instruction?
- How can we demonstrate these beliefs through specific examples?

## Where are we going?

- What do we see in the future for reference collections?



## The New Story

- Balancing print and electronic resources
  - What is available?
  - How does it compare?
  - Who are our patrons and what do they use?

# What is available?

- More reference sources are converting to online.



Literature  
Resource Center

xreferplus



## How does it compare?

- How do we measure?
- What is lost and gained?
- How do we weigh these given the generation we are serving?

## Who are the Millennials?

- Born after 1984
- Entered college beginning in 2000
- Have always had computers
- Consumers of education
- Visual learners and multitaskers

## How Millennials find information

- A 2002 OCLC survey revealed that 80% of undergraduates use a Web search engine for all or most assignments, while only half used the library's subscription databases.

## How Millennials find information

- The same survey revealed that 50% use Web portals such as Yahoo, Google and MSN.

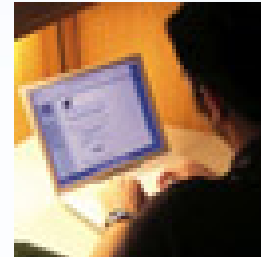


## How the Millennials find information

- 2003 NSSE Survey found that 83% of students use the Web to find resources.
- 2002 Pew “Internet goes to college” found 73% of students do so.

How do we...

- Relieve the stress of change for the hero?
- Deliver the story of what the Internet can and can not provide?



## Old truths still hold

- Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.
  - Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

## Continuing the journey

- Will the hero accept the call willingly or reluctantly?
- Who are the helpers?
- How will the journey proceed?

## Discussion & Questions?

