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The Changing Information World or If We are Truly at the Center It will be Okay if the World Turns Upside Down
Organizational Change

- Changing workloads
- Changing workflows
- Changing interdependencies
- Changing technology
- Changing external relations
- Changing job requirements
The Resources

• Multiple formats
• Licensing
• Statistics
• Systems to support our work – the new acronym – ERMS
• Preservation and archiving
The Environment

• What happened to subscription agents?
• Vendors
• Publishers
• Faculty
• Students
• Consortia
Change

• Marketing
• Assessment
• New technologies
• Collaborative relationships
The Future

- Electronic access to monographs
- The thunk factor
- Born digital
Scholarly Communication

- Open Access
- Google Scanning project
- Creation and sharing of digitized information resources
- SPARC
Consider

• Ethics
• Responsibility
• The nature of information
• Collection development
• What if…
Ethics

• “US is pressing Google for data On Searches”…New York Times, Friday January 20, 2006

• “Google Cuts 2 Features for China… And Internet Users Think Twice Before a Search”… New York Times, Wednesday, January 25, 2006
Ethics

• “The ACLU has...stated publicly that Google records can be summarily subpoenaed by federal authorities under provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act...”
• Hundreds of library home pages use Google search box as their search engine of choice
• A Trojan Horse?

In A Google World: Rethinking Ubiquity by Peter McDonald in progressive Librarian # 24 page 35-40
• We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

• We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.
ALA Code of Ethics

- We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.
- We recognize and respect intellectual property rights.
- We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our
• We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

• We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.
ALA Code of Ethics

• We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.

Adopted June 28, 1995, by the ALA Council
We protect each library user’s right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted
Responsibility

• Information Literacy and Electronic Information Resources
• “Think Before You Share: Students’ online socializing can have unintended consequences.” Chronicle of Higher Education 1/18/06
• Plagiarism
The Nature of Information

- Fungible – Being of such a nature or kind that one unit or part may be exchanged or substituted for another equivalent unit or part.

- American Heritage Dictionary
What is Fungible

- Oil
- Money
- Grain
- Information…. Abby Smith in a CLIR report on the artifact
• “Of the things we value in these materials, what is fungible and what cannot be separated from its carrier medium? How does one begin to make that distinction? In many digital objects, the chief value is in the informational content of the file, and that content is as good in one copy as in another. It is similar to the case feature films, where the researcher will normally prize ease of access over fidelity to the original manifestation, with limits. Many researchers are happy enough [using a digital surrogate]

• CLIR pub103 The Evidence in Hand: Report of the Task Force on the Artifact in Library Collections
(11/01, 123 pp.) $20
http://www.clir.org/PUBS/reports/pub103/section3.html
“In many cases, the answer for libraries will be that they are, in fact, primarily concerned with collecting, preserving, and providing access to the fungible informational content of digital objects.”
Fungible Information

• The artifact
• Preservation implications
• Role of our buildings as “storehouses”
• Opportunity to dedicate more space to service
• Need for better service
• Do our users know or care where we get the information they find in the virtual library
• How do we teach information literacy if the focus is not on what the library owns versus everything else

• Is there an anti-collection anymore?
Collection Development

- **RECON** – full text retrospective conversion
- **PROCON** – prospective conversion
- Define a core of material collected by all libraries and concentrate on the selection of advanced (unique materials)
- Work collectively in negotiations with publishers
• Archiving – print and digital

• Work with scholarly societies and scholars to put in place alternatives of supplements to traditional publishing

• Ross Atkinson. JANUS Conference at Cornell in October 2005
What If….

We no longer signed licenses
Electronic monographs are discovery tools that lead to increased book sales and greater library use
No book ever went out of print because of print on demand services
Open access works
The Google scanning project completely changed document delivery
• Questions, comments?

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