Change in Emphasis: Recasting Resource Investments and the Rise of Special Collections

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A Few Assumptions

- Institutional economics, not technology, will drive need for fundamental changes (universities & libraries)

- Universities are not going to receive the resources to keep pace with cost increases

- Libraries must undergo transformation to thrive

- We won’t win the commodity game
Research in information science

- study of processes to store and retrieve information, esp. scientific or technical information

...systematic investigation and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions

R&D ... work directed toward the innovation, introduction, and improvement of products and processes

Library:

organized collection of unique, primary sources, data sets

... organized systematically and kept for research

Taken together to enable production and use of scholarly communication
Physical Facilities -- Back to our Roots?

- Prime real estate – what is ROI?
- Rise in HE of multi-purpose facilities (libraries)
- Thus bring the outside in
Rethinking Collecting and Resources

- Collections collecting shifts → data, media, born digital

- Significantly reduce the proportion of our budget going into purchasing commodity information –
  - Reinvest in enabling scholarly production

- Focus on unique materials
  - And then how we knit it together
Resource allocation: Collection vs. Special Collections

Re-shifting what we have
95% / 5% collection funding → 90 / 10 budget → 80 / 20 ...
Cataloging / arrangement & description = 96 / 4 →
Staffing model built for paper

Sensitivities: science & health sciences

Public programming 25% / 75%

How do we measure impact?
The Book in Evolution

Transitioning from a product-based economy to an experience based economy

- As the book changes from “words on a page” to interactive digital manifestations of information, future books are evaluated by the experience they create

How well are we positioned to support new dynamic user experiences?

Does GBS hasten transfer of all print books to special collections? Implications?
Emory's Manuscript, Archives, & Rare Book Library
Transformational Collections: an Emory Example

- Poet Laureate of Great Britain Ted Hughes
- Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney
- Poet Laureate of Great Britain Carol Ann Duffy
- Noted collector Raymond Danowski Poetry Library
- Booker of Bookers winner Salman Rushdie
- Pulitzer-Prize winner Alice Walker
- Northern Irish Poets: Pulitzer-Prize winner Paul Muldoon, Derek Mahon, Michael Longley, James Simmons, Medbh McGuckian, Tom Paulin, Ciaran Carson
Make Special Collections = Living Archives

Harness power of collection investments integration of

- Public programs (events, exhibits, … use),
- Learning environments and classrooms
- Digital laboratories
- Raw primary data and materials
Born Digital Archives
Salman Rushdie's Digital Life

Fending Off Digital Decay, Bit by Bit
Browse Results for **FICTION**

Recommended instructional copy explains that Browse results include all results for a specific type of work.

136 Results  |  Results per page 10  20  40  View All
Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Next

**98.03i - GANDHI : TIME**
On computer Performa 5400
Path: / Hard Disk / "STEP ACROSS THIS LINE" / CRIT : NON-FIC : AFFAIR / 98.03i - GANDHI : TIME
Type of Work

More about this result >
Key Words in Context (Suggest 30 words followed by “…” Also, keywords will be bold).

**THE TRIPARTITE SYSTEM**
On computer Performa 5400
Path: / Hard Disk / "THE GROUND BENEATH HER FEET" / 02. EVERYTHING ELSE / THE TRIPARTITE SYSTEM
Type of Work

More about this result >
Key Words in Context (Suggest 30 words followed by “…” Also, keywords will be bold).
21st Century Special Collections

- Acquiring born-digital records in a variety formats as standard practice; relationship to general collection?
- Greater variety of people using special collections
- Researchers want not just to find records, but to combine them; increased use of multi-media records
- Provenance and context are of essential and the value of resources as evidence is central.
- Greater demand for special collections as a virtual space
- Consolidation of services within libraries

Where are next generation of leaders?
Questions for Special Collections

- How should research universities leverage their investment in special collections in the digital age?
- How should we measure the impact of SC’s?
- What should the special collections library look like and function in the 21st century?
- Does GBS (etc.) hasten the transfer of all print books to special collections and what are the implications?
- Do all born digital collections belong in special collections?
Project / problem based science teams: interdisciplinary & trans-disciplinary

Domain experts, systems and application design, database experts, knowledge architects, ....

Digital library: information science, library science, domain experts, technologists

IT: network & storage engineers, computer science, technologists, systems experts

Scientific Domains
(Generating workflows)

Applications
(Enabling workflows)

Repository layer
(Supports & preserves workflows)

Data and infrastructure
(Enabling infrastructure)
Like a 4 Layer Cake
Coordinating a on multi-institutional scale
Value-added Workflow Opportunities

Large-scale data integration in the sciences

- Requires an automated (and careful) record of the provenance (lineage) of the data
- Precisely record the semantics of any derived data to maintain provenance of those data sets
- Current relational DBMSs (built for business processing) don’t work well for scientific data
- Most fields of science do not have systematic means for a scientist to make data available.
Staffing

- Starting Master’s level certificate program in Digital Scholarship and New Media
- Mellon planning grant for digital scholarship commons
- Hosting visiting library fellow, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Partnerships: Outside In & Inside Out

Turning libraries outside in -- and -- staffing inside out
- Bringing classrooms inside, integrating learning spaces
- Faculty collaboration partnerships inside: laboratories
- Moving staff outside → embedded where users live
  - Informaticians (practitioners of informatics)
  - Informationists (embedded librarians providing research and knowledge management services in context)
- Missing in action: agile analytical skills

Requires new hybrid organizational structures … at all levels in the academy … with a different culture … geared to innovation and experimentation
Reinvention of editing in a digital age

- Editing of textual sources: in a broad sense making our primary textual sources usable for scholarly work

- *Help Wanted*: editors who coordinate contributions from many sources and oversee living editions
A new era of editing

Convergence of metadata description and editing

1. **Advancing established scholarship**

2. **Enabling new research** – expand frontiers of research beyond that which was possible in print.
   - Shift from static publications (and unchanging by legal restrictions) into a world of versioned, dynamic data, i.e., living entities that evolve
   - An edition that provides demonstrably superior information today is strategically inferior to an edition that can improve over time.

3. **Systematic annotation** - redefines what readers can expect, and enables editions to interact directly with much larger collections

See: Gregory Crane: *Give us editors! Re-inventing the edition and re-thinking the humanities*
Voyages (Transatlantic Slave Trade Database Online)

Scholars from different institutions and nations collaborate for years to transform their core materials into shared digital resources to create a functional digital environment

- Canonical database chronicling 5 centuries of the transatlantic slave trade
- Creating web infrastructure for international collaboration on assembling primary research knowledge bases
Building a Research Commons at Emory supporting digital scholarship

- **Digital Humanities**
  - Core technologies: page image to text; text to data; one language to another; born digital archives
  - Certificate program in digital scholarship & new media

- **Social Sciences** – data center and GIS support, partner with SSRC faculty

- **Consolidate Sciences & Health Sciences efforts**: focus on informatics
Documenting History to Confront Distortion

Holocaust Denial on Trial

The Holocaust: Denial & History

The Nazi Holocaust claimed the lives of between 5 and 6 million Jews between 1939 and 1945. Since then, a small group of Holocaust deniers have lied about and minimized this history by deliberately manipulating historical evidence as part of an ideological and racist agenda.

Learning Tools: Myths & Facts

Holocaust deniers frequently distort the historical record in order to justify anti-Semitism, racism and fascism. These tools help the novice and expert alike analyze denier claims and refute them with historical evidence including primary-source documents and both Nazi and survivor testimony.

Myth/Fact Sheets

Timelines and Glossaries

Podcasts

Holocaust Denial in the News

More >>>

Highlights

Online Holocaust Denial and Hate Podcast Series:

HDOT's new podcast recordings feature interviews with Dr. Saul Friedlander, Father John Pawlikowski and other leading scholars and intellectuals discussing Holocaust denial and online hate speech. Subscribe to the feed in iTunes to receive new podcasts as we post them.

Further Reading:

Excellent resource for exploring online hate, Oct 1, 2009

In preparation for HDOT's (www.hdot.org) spring launch of interactive online lesson plans, we begin a series of reviews of available resources. Please help us design the most useful lessons by submitting your comments.

The Canadian nonprofit Media Awareness Network (MAN) has a very helpful website for understanding the conjunction of hate and media.
The Global Health CHRONICLES

An inside look at public health efforts to prevent, control and eradicate global disease.

Using a bifurcated needle, an Indian health worker vaccinates a child. The bifurcated needle was a simple technological advance that became essential in the eradication of smallpox. Unskilled workers could be trained easily to administer vaccine in surveillance and containment activities. Benjamin Rubin of Wyeth Laboratories developed the bifurcated needle, and gave the patent rights to the World Health Organization.

Smallpox: Global eradication of smallpox, by any measure, ranks among the great achievements of humankind.

Guinea worm: A painful and debilitating infestation contracted by drinking stagnant water contaminated with Guinea worm larvae.

Malaria: The origin of CDC’s disease prevention and eradication programs.

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Coupling Strategy

Crosscutting:
- Domain Experts
- High end Collab Equipment
- Service support
- Workflow production
- Research Output

Collections
Research Commons
Programs
Learning Environment
Hardest question: what to stop doing ... ?

Are these candidates?

- Branches
- Morning hours
- Subject web pages
- Photocopies
- eReserves
- Ready reference
- Database searching
Lessons

1. Shallow infrastructure wins
   - Tension: infrastructure requires a shared layer and needs to be discipline agnostic, while supporting discipline requirements
   - Clouds – getting data in and out is a problem
     - Failure of risk management analysis at scale

2. Act on what is **core** – can we agree what that is?

3. Perfect is enemy of the good: thus change our DNA

4. Well functioning workflow support is value-added
   - Data curation
   - Editing rich content
Culture eats strategy for breakfast every time

We need to get focused on culture