

# Regional Print Management: Right-scaling Solutions

~~*Operations and Services, or*~~  
*How to Shave and Prune  
Library Collections*

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# background

- OhioLINK, part 1: 1990-1995 (WSU)
  - Design and implementation of SWORD
- NELINET (1999-2010)
  - Developed and marketed the New England Regional Depository, a brokered commercial service
- OhioLINK, part 2: 2010 – present (CWRU)
  - Not a Northeast Ohio regional depository participant
  - One on-campus storage facility + off-site at Iron Mountain
  - Changed our “philosophy” of retention and access [faculty Task Force on the Acquisition and Retention of Library Materials]
  - Currently investigating a multi-institutional, local commercial depository
- EIFL (1999-present)
  - Print management isn’t an issue for developing countries
  - Be thankful your problem is you have too much stuff to manage

how much to shave?

# Occam's Razor

*William of Ockham:*

For any given set of circumstances, the simplest explanation is best ...



*Entia non sunt  
multiplicanda praeter  
necessitatem*

... except in complex situations,  
in which case the simplest answer may be wrong

# Pruning

I have a delicate question  
that I'd like to ask ...

does your collection suffer from irregularity of use?

if so, how do you know what or how much to keep?

perhaps I have something that can help

*new print management solution?*

## Fletcher's Consortia

With prunes, you  
never know:  
are 3 too few, are  
6 too many?"



Better  
than  
prunes

If we are going to do  
print management,  
let's get in gear

*If multinational  
corporations can agree  
on interoperability  
standards for the  
'Internet of Things,' why  
can't librarians agree on  
a common length of  
loan period?*

BIG DATA

## Consortium Wants Standards for 'Internet of Things'

By QUENTIN HARDY MARCH 27, 2014, 9:00 AM 5 Comments

A consortium of industrial giants, including AT&T, Cisco, General Electric, IBM and Intel said on Thursday that they would cooperate to create engineering standards to connect objects, sensors and large computing systems in some of the world's largest industrial assets, like oil refineries, factories or harbors. ....

The group, called the Industrial Internet Consortium, hopes to establish common ways that machines share information and move data.

*"... for the Internet of Things to really take off, we needed more interoperability, better building blocks and better standards,"* said Abhi Ingle, a senior vice president of AT&T's advanced solutions group. ...

while we were sleeping ...

*(in case we didn't already have enough to worry about)*

Is this the death knell of  
interlibrary loan?  
Is "library print management"  
about to be an irrelevant concept?

**MARKETPLACE**  
Fridav, March 28, 2014

Technology

## Securing the Borders of Publishing

By Shirley Naught-Reilly

The American Association of Publishers and the Author's Guild ... combining their considerable forces to try to stem the loss of ... perceive is being caused by university libraries that have ... able for too long to lend materials among themselves ... remuneration back to either the publisher or the author.

Emboldened by their ability to control resale of electronic books through tight licensing arrangements, the publishers and authors are now seeking to close the door on libraries by ensuring that the same provisions apply to all copies of print books sold in the United States since 1924.

...

[The publishers and authors are seeking Congressional approval to] amend U.S. copyright law to require that royalties be paid to the publishers each time the work is borrowed or lent in physical form...

**Warning:  
this is not a real article**

Marketplace...  
17 of 20 Articles

- CEO Pay Keeps Rising, but Not as Quickly, Not for All
- Sons of Rupert Murdoch Promoted
- Twitter to Relaunch Music Strategy
- New Curbs on Drug Use in Animals
- Target, Visa Say Credit-Card Fraud Limited
- Merck, Glaxo Hold Off on Some Copy Help
- GM CEO Says Recalled Cars Safe to Drive
- Novartis Drug Shows Promise in Rare Lung Cancer
- Brookstone, Specialty Retailer, Preparing For Bankruptcy Filing

The American Association of Publishers and the Author's Guild ... Emboldened by their ability to control resale of electronic books through tight licensing arrangements, the publishers and authors are now seeking to close the door on libraries by ensuring that the same provisions apply to all copies of print books sold in the United States since 1924.

...

[The publishers and authors are seeking Congressional approval to] amend U.S. copyright law to require that royalties be paid to the publishers each time the work is borrowed or lent in physical form...

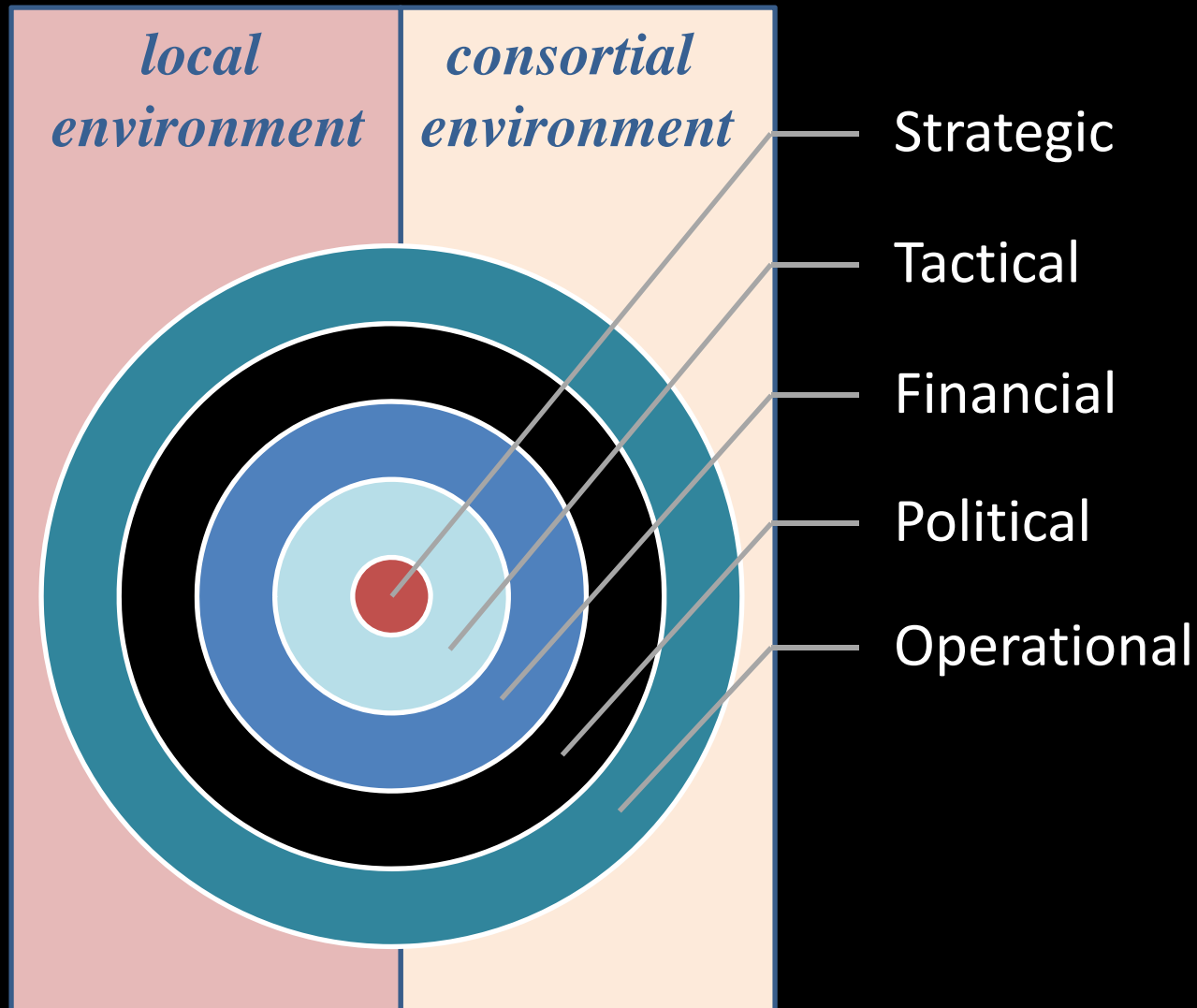


# managing print in hindsight

Years Ago	Year	Changes in Technology
5	~2009 AD	Sony Reader (2006) ; Kindle (2007); e-books go mainstream
10	2004 AD	Google Print [Books] project announced
20	~1994 AD	JSTOR founded (1995)
25	~1989 AD	OhioLINK begins, with planning for state depositories (1990)
50	1964 AD	<b>First Xerox photocopier</b> (1959); OCLC founded (1967)
65	~1949 AD	Memex (1945); Center for Research Libraries opens
100	~1914 AD	Commercial use of <b>micrographics</b> for saving space (1920s)
500	~1514 AD	Moving from Illuminated manuscripts to <b>Gutenberg</b> (1456)
1000	1014 AD	Moving from tablets to scrolls
2414	~300 BC	Library of Alexandria opens (burns in multiple attacks through 391 AD)
4000	1986 BC	Hieroglyphics
5000	~2500 BC	Stone tablets, Stonehenge, earliest surviving papyrus
6000	3976 BC	Cuneiform

What if we had managed print based upon upon the most cutting-edge technology available at that moment?

# print management service decision overlays



# print management service decision overlays: *examples*

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- **Strategic: what are we trying to accomplish?**
  - Increased access to content for faculty & students?
  - Integrate electronic and print collections strategies?
  - Reduce the footprint required for storage?
  - Generate operational cost-savings?
  - Ensure long-term preservation of the content?
- **Tactical: campus versus partnership perspectives**
  - What are the consortium's policy requirements?
  - What will each contribute? What value will each gain?
  - Is this a reliable and sustainable collaborative?
  - How will weeding affect content and services?

# service decision overlays: *examples*

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- Financial
  - What will the processes cost (staff, space, etc.)
  - Can we find additional sources of funding?
  - Will collaborative efforts really reduce or only increase our out of pocket expenses?
- Political
  - Will faculty accept the retention guidelines?
- Operational
  - When and how will we implement the solution?

# [relatively] recent impact factors affecting print management decisions

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- ARL index no longer counts volumes (directly)
- Availability of stable and trusted in-state lending & borrowing systems
- Availability of trusted archives
- E-books are maturing and may potentially replace print in the future

# emerging issues for print management: *storage facilities*

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- In an age of competing university and library priorities, what is the ROI for storage facilities?
- Storage conditions versus storage costs
  - What is the real tipping point for humidity and temperature control?
  - Is preservation storage of all material in perpetuity still a reasonable (or desirable) goal?
- If we pursue a commercial option, what contractual protections should we seek?

# emerging print management: *e-book backfile availability* (regardless of source)

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- To what extent do the electronic and print collections overlap?
- Does the e-book supplement or duplicate the print copy? (Can we eliminate the print copy?)
- How much of the new electronic (non-overlapped) material is of significant value for our academic programs?

# collaborative solutions: *are three copies too few, are six too many?*

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- How many copies are enough to meet
  - local needs?
  - regionally needs?
  - national needs?\*
- Who owns the copies that are retained?
- What happens to the print collection if the collaborative dissolves or if a member leaves to join a new partnership?

Prediction: the complexity of a national solution makes it impossible for this to ever happen in the U.S. Any such effort is doomed to go the way of the “National Periodicals Center”



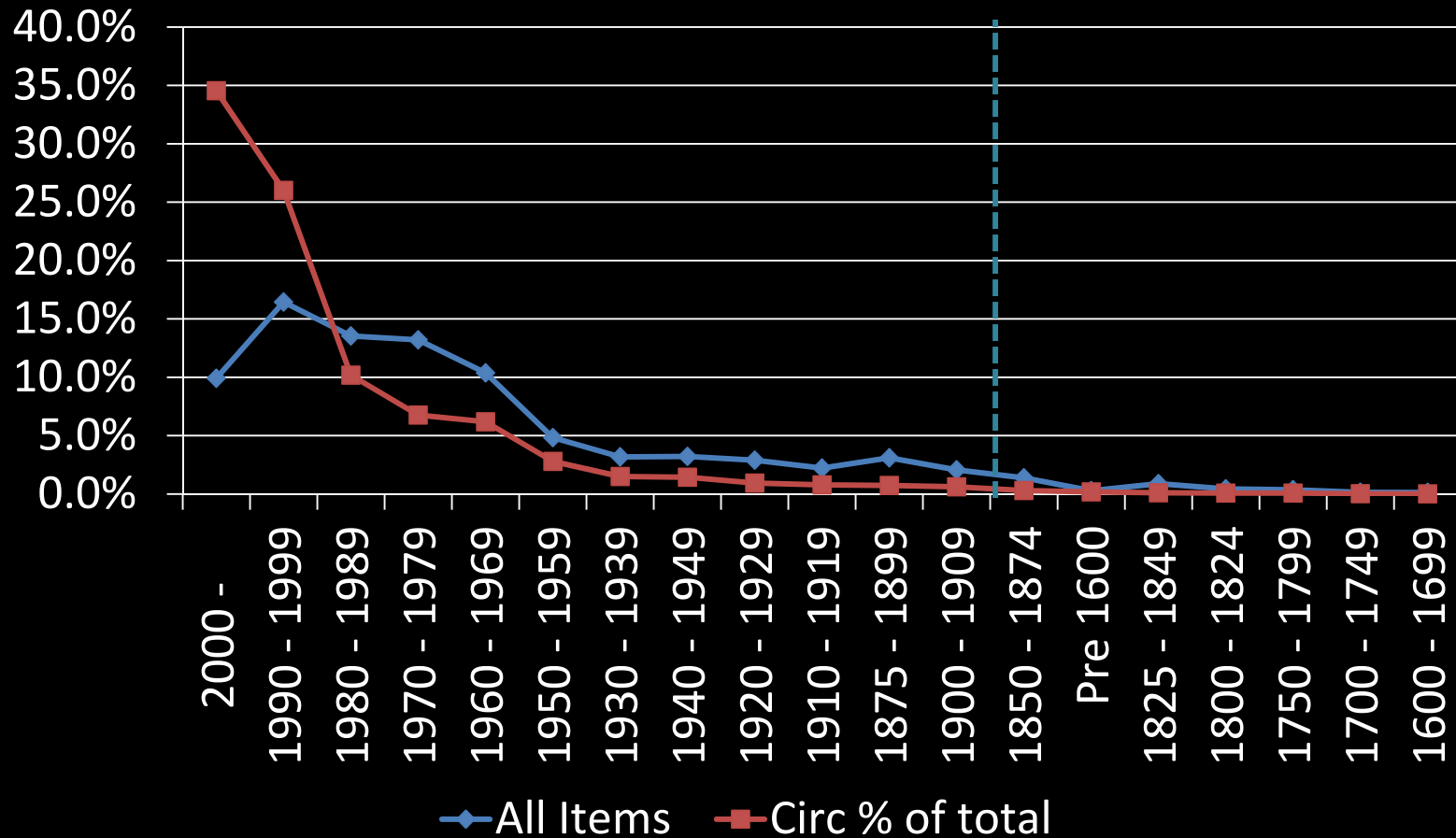
# the value of statistical data

Statistics inform decisions,  
not make them

*What do we learn if there is a very low correlation between the number of items in the collection and the circulation rates?*

CWRU	Cincinnati	Correlation
-0.041	-0.003	All Items to Circulation Rate
-0.057	0.000	Circulating Items to Circulation Rate
0.217	0.060	Circulation to Circulation Rate

is it surprising that the more you have, and the more recent it is, the more it circulates?



Correlation of All items : Circ % of Total = 0.74

# How closely should we shave print management? In the spirit of Occam's Razor

“[I]n most matters it is more important that the applicable rule of law be settled than that it be settled right...

This is commonly true even where the error is a matter of serious concern...”

Justice Louis Brandeis, dissent, *Burnet v. Coronado Oil & Gas Co.*, 285 U.S. 393 (1932)

# future proofing print management: *things to ponder*

1. Neither overcomplicate nor oversimplify the decision, knowing that those who learn from the past will be condemned to make different mistakes, and past practice will never fully predict future behavior.
2. Statistics can guide us, but never lead us
3. Best practices won't be best for very long

# *more* future proofing ponderables

4. You can assess and manage risk, not eliminate it, but don't worry: this is print management, not brain surgery.
5. Regardless of what you decide, time will prove some of your decisions to be wrong, so forgive those who made bad decisions before you, and hope future generations will forgive you.
6. Most importantly, do something, because it is always better than talking but never getting anything done.

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