

The Digital Library: Without a Soul Can It Be a Library?



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5 Laws of Library Science

Ranganathan: 1931

- Books are for use.
- Books are for all.
Or, every reader a book.
- Every book its reader
- Save the time of the reader.
- A library is a growing organism.



5 New Laws of Library Science

Crawford and Gorman: 1995

- Libraries serve humanity.
- Respect all forms by which knowledge is communicated.
- Free access to knowledge.
- Use technology intelligently to enhance service.
- Honor the past and create the future.



Library as an information ecology

- System of people, practices, values, technologies within an environment
- Information accessible to all
- Respond to changes in environment



Digital Library

- Reputable computer scientists say:
Collections of **digital** objects with **programmed** methods of selection, organization, maintenance, access and retrieval
- Librarians say:
Where's the human element?



Library users are difficult to categorize

- Different subject interests
- Different technical abilities
- Different cognitive styles
- Different personalities
- Different cultural backgrounds



Users want:

- Multi-database searching
 - Information overload
 - Slow response time
 - Duplicate records
- Common user interfaces
 - Reduced functionality
 - Backdoor to databases



Expectations of library users

- Successful information retrieval
- Success at some cost: cost-effectiveness
- Benefit to the user
- Benefit at some cost



Digital Library

- English, Engineering faculty
 - Building that houses their **collections**
- Computer Scientists
 - **Digital** objects with **programmed** methods of selection, organization, maintenance, access and retrieval
- Librarians
 - Collection development to meet **needs of users**



[Digital] Library Definition

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/DLI2/>

- Supports full cycle of information: creation, dissemination, use, and preservation
- Access to evolving collection
 - Evaluated and organized information
 - Personalized systems
 - Library services
- Melding of activities--collections, services, and people



Reference Scenario

by Jane Schillie, VT College Librarian for the Social Sciences

- Personal reference interview leads to intellectual access
- Information discrimination
- Translating the question asked into the information needed
- Guide to the appropriate sources

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/DLI2/reflibscenario.html>



Teaching Scenario

by Dan Mosser, Virginia Tech Professor of English

- If it isn't in the digital library, it isn't available/useable.
- EReserve
 - Copyright compliance
 - Syllabus with links to digital resources
- Personal publication of conference presentation

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/DLI2/scenarios/Mosser.html>



Research Scenario

by Robert France, Computer Science Research Associate

- VRML browser in her virtual carrel
- Personal digital library built from
 - Web search for information in any format
 - Library catalog searches: remote and local
 - circulating works are still on the virtual shelves
 - spine labels are easy to read
 - Individualized view of resources
- Quality ratings

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/DLI2/scenarios/France.html>

digital library and archives

formerly the scholarly communications project



Scholarly Publishing Services


EJournals
ETDs (electronic theses and dissertations)
News Reports
Virginia Tech Publications

Library Services and Archives

Copyright
EReserve
Special Collections: Manuscripts, Rare Books, University Archives
VT ImageBase

General Information

Search the Digital Library and Archives
Presentations

 [DLA 1999/2000 or historical information about](#)

The **Scholarly Communications Project** has expanded its resources and services and merged with **Special Collections** to become the university's **Digital Library and Archives**. Since 1989, SCP has worked with members of the university community to help them create online resources such as electronic journals, and to use library services such as electronic reserve with its centralized access to course materials. In addition, DLA designs and maintains systems including those for electronic theses and dissertations and digital images. Special Collections, including rare books, manuscript collections, and the University Archives, collects and preserves unique historical materials, providing access to them in their original form and online through the Internet.

Search DLA

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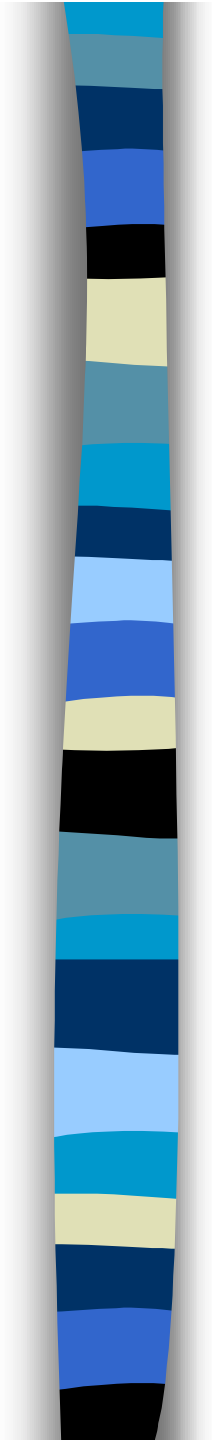
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu>
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Information Economy MARSHALL KEYS

- Economics of publishing
- Development of metadata
- Information aggregators
- Local system technology development
- Library consortia

The medium
is not
the message.





Ethical Periods in Librarianship

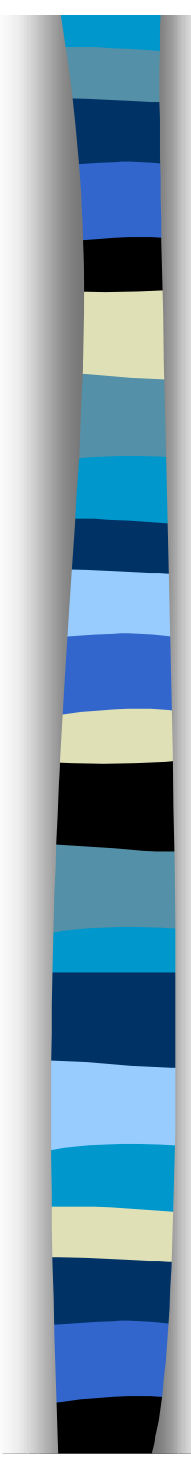
- <1930
 - Create and maintain library collections
- 1930-1950
 - Customer services--free access to information
- 1960-1999
 - Broad needs of society
- >2000
 - Customer services--find appropriate information among overabundance



Librarians Take Action

- Participate in grants
- Teach with faculty
- Inform students
- Promote (digital) library services
- Work with systems designers
- Learn from digital library research
- Educate. Risk. Succeed.

“You’re either part of the solution
or part of the problem.”



Digital information is not a revolution but a development, albeit a fast one, and information is only part of what it takes to achieve knowledge. In the end it is not the speed of the information or even the information itself that will give our lives meaning. It is still what we do with it that matters most.

Marilyn Gell Mason, "The Yin and Yang of Knowing,"
Books, Bricks, and Bytes: Libraries in the Twenty-first Century