

FOREIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS
AREA STUDIES COLLECTIONS
GLOBAL RESOURCES

WHATEVER!

RECALIBRATING THE RESEARCH LIBRARY
ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

James G. Neal
Association of Research Libraries
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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Basic Theses
2. Some Definitions
3. Some Assumptions
4. Some Observations on Trends
and Developments
5. Some Prospective Actions

BASIC THESES

- North American research libraries are collectively and systematically reducing their commitment and capacity to collect, organize, service, share and preserve global publications and resources in all formats.
- Regional, national, and international collaborations are enabling deeper coordination of collections and responsive delivery services, but these efforts are generally shallow, episodic and selective.
- Regional and global education and research programs at North American universities will be diminished because of reduced library capability to provide foreign-language materials and international resources.

SOME DEFINITIONS

- Global Resources
- Area Studies Librarians
 - Regional Studies
 - Global Studies
 - Coordinated Collection Development
 - Radical Collaboration

WHAT ARE THE CORE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LIBRARY?

- Information Selection
 - Information Acquisition
 - Information Synthesis
 - Information Navigation
 - Information Dissemination
 - Information Interpretation
 - Information Understanding
 - Information Use
 - Information Application
 - Information Archiving
- In Support of Teaching and Learning
 - In Support of Research and Scholarship

SOME ASSUMPTIONS

- Academic Research Libraries Will No Longer Develop Comprehensive Collections In All Formats
- Collections Will Increasingly Align With Shifting University Academic Priorities and Funding Realities
- Coordination of Collection Development Across Research Library Community Will Remain Marginalized
- Academic Research Libraries Will Increasingly Focus On Distinctive and Unique Collections

SOME FURTHER ASSUMPTIONS

- Preservation and Archiving of the Cultural and Scientific Record Will Remain Balkanized and By Default
- National and Global Information Policies Will Not Facilitate the Deep Collection Collaboration Needed
- User Communities Will Create Their Own Strategies and Tools for Discovering, Disseminating and Managing Context
- Work of Collection Building Will Require New Approaches to Professional Staffing and Organization

RECRUIT AND DEVELOP THE STAFF HYBRID PROFESSIONALS IN THE INFORMATION ORGANIZATION

- Professionals With Diverse Academic Credentials
- Wide Range of New Professional Assignments
- Professional Roles of Support Staff and Students

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- Impact on Values, Outlooks, Styles, Expectations
 - Impact on Community Understanding, Recognition, Respect
 - Impact on Organizational Relevance and Impact

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE INFORMATIONAL PROFESSIONAL

- Commitment to Rigor
- Commitment to Research and Development
- Commitment to Assessment and Evaluation
- Communication and Marketing Skills
- Political Engagement
- Project Development and Management Skills
- Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Resource Development Skills
- Leadership/Inspirational Capacity
- Deep Subject or Technical Expertise

SUBJECT LIBRARIANS 2.0

SOME FURTHER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

- Issue of Allegiance
- Sharing of Responsibilities
- Embedded Professionals
- Fiscal Trends/Survival
- Recruitment and Retention
- Research Information Management
- Multidisciplinarity/Diversity

SOME OBSERVATIONS

- International Students/Researchers
- North American Students Abroad
- Foreign Language Education
- Multidisciplinary/Multicultural
- Global Campuses/Research Centers
- Rapidly Shifting User Behaviors/Expectations

SOME FURTHER OBSERVATIONS

- International Growth of WorldCat Database
- Analog/Digital Publishing Trends
- Mass Digitization Projects
- Cyberinfrastructure and Geo-Everything
- Web Sites and Documents
- Repository Chaos
- Content and Functionality

SOME FURTHER OBSERVATIONS

- Redundant Inefficient Library Operations
- Need To Achieve Scale and Network Effects Through Aggregation
- Mandate for Systemic Change
- New Economic Context
- Exciting Research Library Combinations

SOME PROSPECTIVE ACTIONS

- Collection Data Analysis (OCLC)
- Global Scholarly Communication Systems (SPARC)
- Transforming the Research Library (ARL)
- Coordination of Mass Digitization Activities (DLF)
- Coordination/Support for Foreign Acquisitions (LC)
- Innovative Acquisition and Access Programs (CRL/GRN)
- North American Agenda for Global Resources (CLIR)