

Digital Information and Learning: Organizing the Library to Deal with its Changing Role

Tyler O. Walters

Georgia Tech Library and Information Center

September, 11, 2002

Two Impacting Trends on Universities:

- 1). Continuing movement to make universities operate more like a businesses
- 2). New technologies for information discovery, communication, and delivery

Librarians in the New Library Paradigm

- 1). Librarians as teachers of information seeking,navigation, and use
- 2). Librarians as builders of digital information systems and resources

Teachers of Information Seeking, Navigation, and Use

- Teach Internet use and information literacy to students
 - * Other activities may include: collection developer;
library skills instructor
- Online reference and subject guides, advanced reference
- New instructional partnerships with faculty and instructional technology specialists

Information Services Strategy

- Library included in core academic teaching function—
Library as “teaching library” or “instructional center”
- Create instructional partnerships - move librarians out of “passive” role
- This strategy drives the development of “learning centers” or “information commons”

Librarians and Campus IT Professionals

- IT user training in information tools use is low priority
- Leaves a wide open opportunity for the Library
- Libraries, faculty, IT Divisions will work in new ways
- Libraries understand “teaching information” and “metadata” -- WE are designing the emerging system to discover new the “digital objects” being created

Builders of Digital Information Systems and Resources

- Major role is integrating the digital and physical collections into education and research functions of faculty, anytime, anywhere they need the resource
- Some activities: licensing/copyright mgmt.; metadata; building databases, portals, full-text and/or image digital libraries, consulting with “instructional partners”

Other Digital and Technical Services

- Involve installing, maintaining, and operating the “Virtual Library:”
 - e-Publishing technical workflows
 - managing web sites (architecture and content)
 - scanning and tagging resource material
 - data entry
 - maintaining the IT infrastructure to operate “Virtual Library”

Digital & Technical Services and The Realm of Scholarly Communications

- e-Publishing of scholarly journals, research reports, and technical papers for the university community
- Economics of information: consortial relationships and/or new digital publishing technology to influence pricing and distribution by corporate publishers
- Library can be e-publisher, driving down costs, etc.
- Library can influence faculty to support low cost e-publishing alternative

A Technical Perspective

- Libraries can digitally preserve and provide access to sponsored research reports and dept.- and center-based technical papers
- Can be incorporated into digital library initiatives
- These resources then can be promoted by public service librarians and faculty, and used at the desktop

Organizing Libraries?

- Myriad ways of doing this; should be determined according to your university's specific needs
- Organize around the new paradigm and the two major areas of activity described today
- Remember... there is no “one size fits all” solution!

Reinventing Libraries for Changing Roles

Example: IPST Haselton Library &
Knowledge Center

- SGML / TEI Digital library of IPST final project reports, project advisory committee reports, technical paper series, and IPST dissertations
- Established e-publishing workflow and procedures for these IPST documents

Reinventing Libraries for Changing Roles 2

- Management of IPST's Web sites' information architecture, content, and design.
- Library's "Information Gateway" which now brings e-access to over 1000 e-resources to desktops for faculty and students
- Created information portal with Ei, Inc. "Paper Village"

Reinventing Libraries for Changing Roles 3

- Developed information literacy program for digital resources
- Reorganized Library + Editorial Services & Web Design
- Leadership role in 3-year IPST “Knowledge Initiative”

The Challenge to Libraries

- Libraries are changing, recognize information is everywhere

We Need to:

- Understand skills and activities of emerging information and knowledge management realms
- Merge them with our knowledge of information science...
 - for improved knowledge generation, awareness, communication, use, and preservation

Background - Tyler Walters

- 1. Strategic planning, technology planning, led many project teams, budgeting experience, director experience, grants and development work, cross functional collaborations.
- 2. Wealth of “new” library experience, e-publishing, commercial information portal building, online learning courses, information architecture and content management, knowledge management, audio/visual material. Understand “information” in myriad forms. Specialized in moving libraries to work with all sorts of information sources.
- 3. Working as closely with business as I have been, I understand how universities’ and libraries’ goals of operating more like a business can come to fruition. I’ve been living it for four years, reporting to people who have had long careers directing corporate research operations at major companies like Weyerhaeuser and Kodak.

Background - Tyler Walters 2

- 4. Excellent experience in digital library development - research, planning, and implementation. Have an operational SGML-based digital library with workflow and regular funding as my current experience, not short-term grant funded, not a pilot project or experimentation.
- 4A. Practice a “user-centered” approach to designing digital initiatives. Conducted user interviews and user testing.
- 5. Have led and been integrally involved with IT and Technical Services planning and initiatives in libraries throughout my career.
- 6. Major experience in cataloging and LMS systems (NOTIS to Horizon, Sirsi, and planning for a move to Voyager)

Background - Tyler Walters 3

- 7. Deep experience in archival management and integrating archives efficiently into library operations. Master's degree in Archival Management. Master's degree in Library and Information Science.
- 8. Been through major library reorganizations at Northwestern, Iowa State, and IPST.
- 9. Science/Technology information focus throughout my entire career – worked closely with NU Technological Institute, Iowa State Univ. “of Science and Technology,” Institute of Paper Science and Technology.
- 10. Library director – experienced at all facets of libraries, including Serials & Acquisitions -- Licensing has been a major activity.
- 11. Professionally active, i.e. I continue to learn and develop myself.

Background - Tyler Walters 4

(last slide I promise!)

- 12. Already know GTEL well – we have full access to it at IPST.
- 13. Studied library organizations, published two articles from a major survey I conducted on ARL libraries, integrating library and archives functional operations.

My experiences and initiative will guarantee you a fast return on your investment in me