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Research Support and European Research Libraries

Geleijnse, Hans
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Research Support and European Research Libraries

Hans Geleijnse

Library Strategy Adviser

former Director Library and IT Services TiU
past President of LIBER

Highlights from the report of the University Leadership Council 'Redefining the Academic Library' (2011)

- Collection Size rapidly losing importance
- Local print collections are rarely used
- Acquisition model: "just in time" purchasing approach"
- Demand for traditional library services is declining
- Academic libraries plan to substantially increase spending on ebooks
- Collaborative storage arrangements
- Library space >>> space to support collaborative learning
- Students need for information literacy
- Increasing importance of Open Access.
- New information infrastructure required for management of scientific data

Key message of this American report

The library's traditional role as a repository for physical books and periodicals is quickly fading, with important implications for space utilization, resource acquisition, and staffing.

Discussing Trends with European library leaders (2011)

- Similar trends
- Many libraries are looking for new discovery services
- Cloud based services offer new opportunities for a new ILS of the next generation
- Concern about privacy, security, data protection
- Severe budget problems
- Impact of mobile applications and social networking is discussed
- Focus on research infrastructure

4 Topics

- Scholarly Communication and Open Access repositories
- The role of the library in the area of Research Data
- The Promise of the Cloud
- Better use of Library Space

Scholarly (journal) publishing

- 25.400 active peer-reviewed journals (2009)
- Controlled mainly by commercial publishers
- 1.5 Million articles a year
- STM market 2010 : revenues \$ 12.093.000.000.
About 75% from STM journals
- Expected growth of 4.5 – 5% per year
- Profit margin of Elsevier is 36%

Open Access journals

- 7.311 peer-reviewed Open Access journals (DOAJ), but most journals don't have a high reputation
- Some very promising developments, e.g. PLoS
- **Plos ONE**: Widely disseminated and cited results. No access restrictions. Results published fast. Rigorous peer-review

Slow progress in Open Access

- Author Pay model of Open Access publishing more accepted by traditional publishers
- OA is stimulated by EC, governments, funding bodies and universities (mandates)
- 30% of faculty members have deposited articles in a repository (Ithaka survey 2009)
- SURF survey 2012: about 20% of publications and data are 'Open Access'

Number of OA repositories worldwide (DOAR)

Worldwide

Europe

■ August 2005	400	
■ June 2008	1100	
■ January 2010	1560	755
■ April 2012	2194	1023

Changing the traditional process

- Tenure and promotion system, rankings and personal interests are keeping the scholarly publishing process hostage
- Traditional (commercial) publishing is still managing most of the high ranked publications
- Commercial publishers will squeeze libraries as long as possible
- Progress of Open Access is too limited
- Licensing is often not connected with Open Access goals
- How to combine Open Access with quality control/peer review on top of it?
- **No change without concerted actions**

EC Vice-President Kroes on 11/4/2012

- Open Access should be the rule, but there can be exceptions
- “None of that means that a model dating back hundreds of years is still the right one for the internet age.
- None of that means we should cut back on life-saving cancer research in the supposed interests of patients – when we can ensure that data is anonymised or aggregated.
- None of that means subscription-based models for access to research publications should continue to be dominant in an era where distribution costs approach withhold from the public the work funded by their tax Euros
- And none of that means we should withhold from the public the work funded by their tax Euros.”

Research data: Report of High Level Expert Group to EC (2010)

- Tsunami of research data in all disciplines
- Great opportunities for data mining, to combine data across disciplines and solve major problems
- Need to address the problems of accessing, sharing, storing and preserving of data
- Develop an international framework for a collaborative data infrastructure
- Substantial EC funding for this will become available

EC Report identifies an important role for libraries in this area

- In a research university no one is responsible for management of research data, no one has an overview
- Many challenges: re-use, interoperability, metadata, copyright, search and retrieval
- No systematic linking of data with publications
- Training of students and young researchers in this field is required
- **Libraries could play a role by employing data scientists and data librarians**

LIBER's response to this report

- LIBER supports actions to create a Scientific Data Infrastructure
- Scientific research data funded by public money should be Open Access by default
- Libraries are well positioned to provide services on the use of datasets and play a role in the training and education of students
- Libraries can advice researchers on data management, copyright, metadata standards and preservation
- Libraries will have to employ data scientists and/or data librarians

- More awareness of this is required
- It is an extremely difficult subject

Knowledge Exchange [DFG, JISC, DEFF, SURF] report on data (November 2011)

- Research libraries are setting up repositories for open access publications and datasets
- In some institutions the position of data librarian has been created
- The role of data librarians in supporting researchers in data publishing and datasharing has yet to be developed

Cloud-based services

- Network access to applications and services that are running on remote servers.
- Data are available somewhere in the Internet and can be used on demand
- >> e.g. cloud-hosted versions of Library systems, Metadata in the cloud
- What is currently managed locally can be managed through collaborations among institutions or by external (commercial) organisations

Library Systems in the Cloud

- Major library vendors are offering cloud based services
- OCLC with World Share Management Services
- TotalCare cloud environment of Ex Libris
- ProQuest with Summon Webscale Discovery
- Library networks and individual libraries are moving towards these models
- But these services are not yet operational

Libraries can consider to give up some of their traditional tasks

- Libraries have to define what they want to control (e.g. User database)
- Focus on the tasks that do matter and make a difference
 - > heritage collections: digitization, preservation and curation
 - > supporting e-teaching and e-research
 - > information literacy
 - > supporting and promoting open access of research publications of their own institution
 - > important tasks on scientific data

Library space is valuable

- Most library space taken up by physical books and journals in open stacks
- 50% of volumes have never circulated
- Circulation and ILL numbers are going down
- Only 3% of US faculty started their research in the library (Ithaka Report 2009)
- Use of electronic resources becomes the dominant situation

Reluctance of librarians and Mixed user feelings

- Majority of libraries in most EU countries have not yet cancelled print subscriptions on scholarly journals, but this situation is changing rapidly
- Concern about Ebooks and Copyright
- Clear move towards E-books (but UK Students still prefer print to E-books [Bowker])
- Influential professors want to have as many physical books on the shelves as possible, but ...they don't go to the library
- The Library as a symbol, a showcase?

Re-using library space

- In increasing number of libraries physical volumes are removed to free space for collaborative learning and study areas
- Other academic support services move into library space







Top trends in library space planning

- Fewer physical resources
- Wireless connectivity and outlets
- Comfort and collaboration
- Accept that library is a social space
- **Integration of academic support services (IT Support, Learning Support, Data Centers)**
- Flexibility and modularity
- Food and Drink

Role of library is changing

- Declining demand for services libraries were built for (print collections, cataloguing, lending, reference work)
- And new challenges are coming up for research libraries:
 - Open Access to research publications
 - Managing research data
 - Information literacy in the Google era

Discussing the new Strategy of LIBER

1. Advocacy and Communication
2. Scholarly Communication and Research Infrastructures
3. Re-shaping the Research Library

Thank you very much!

Questions ?

Comments?

Hans. Geleijnse@uvt.nl