Topics Today

1. Contemporary challenges, historical context
2. Making sense of collections
3. Paths ahead for shared print
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We face existential challenge

The changes wrought by the digital revolution add up to a perfect storm for libraries and librarians.

This perfect storm is so terrifying because the role that many librarians have seen for themselves historically is not a great fit for the current era.

- John Palfrey, Bibliotech (2015)
We have been here before

“As an agent of change, printing altered methods of data collection, storage and retrieval systems and communications networks.”

We have been here before

[The research university] organized what had been experienced as a ‘flood’ of print into coherent, culturally complex intellectual identities. It was a source of authority amid moments of technological change and epistemic anxiety.

– Chad Wellmon,

*Organizing Enlightenment: Information Overload and the Invention of the Modern Research University* (Johns Hopkins, 2015)
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"Faltering budgets compound an intensifying existential crisis resulting from profound shifts in information, scholarship, technology, and academic organizations. The purposes of collections are particularly uncertain in this radically fluid context."

"Libraries are on uncertain ground as they engage with this fractious, seductive, alien, and essential universe."

There are multiple ways to define collections

Collections can be understood as:

Things      Service
Collection Models: Angharad Roberts

Collections-as-Things

Collections-as-Process

Collections-as-Access

Collection Models: Lorcan Dempsey

Lorcan Dempsey
Outside-In/Inside-Out Collections

Lorcan Dempsey
Facilitated Collections
Dempsey: Outside-In, Inside-Out

**Outside-In** BOUGHT LICENSED

- Increased consolidation
- Move from print to licensed
- Manage down print – shared print
- Move to user-driven models

_Aim_: to discover

**Inside-Out**

- Institutional assets: special collections, research and learning materials, institutional records,...
- Reputation management
- Increasingly important?

_Aim_: to *have* discovered... to disclose
Collections as Community
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Celebrate and Foster Community

How shall we foreground values of diversity, inclusivity, and equity in our collections and services?

How shall we foreground values of diversity, inclusivity, and equity in how and when we collaborate?

How does Open Access and the push to create an open knowledge ecosystem change our approach to collective collecting?
Embrace Paradox

Local
Popular
Contemporaneous
Analog

Global
Distinctive
Prospective
Digital
Foreground First Principles and Values

• Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equity
• Democracy
• Public Good
• Responsible Stewardship

*Taken from ALA Core Values of Librarianship & SAA Values Statement and Code of Ethics*
Community Building as Capacity Building

"While ever more prolific, varied, and collaborative, shared print efforts remain awkwardly siloed – not only from program to program, but also, even more detrimentally, from other library services and infrastructure. Overcoming that siloing is the hurdle that shared print now faces."

- Susan Stearns & Alison Wohlers, "Shared Print on the Threshold," Collaborative Librarianship (2020)
Collections are Community

"Humor is essential to the integrative balance that we need to deal with diversity and difference and the building of community."

- bell hooks
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Thank you