Legacy Missions in Times of Change: Defining and Shaping Collections in the 21st Century

Antje Mays
*University of Kentucky*, antjemays@uky.edu

Oya Y. Rieger
*Ithaka S+R*, oyarieger@gmail.com

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Legacy Missions in Times of Change: Defining and Shaping Collections in the 21st Century

November 6, 2019

Oya Y. Rieger
Ithaka S-R

Antje Mays
University of Kentucky

Charleston Conference
ISSUES IN BOOK AND SERIAL ACQUISITION
Legacy Missions in Times of Change: Evolving Nature of Collections

Oya Rieger
November 2019
Our goals:

1. Characterize evolving nature of collections
2. Highlight change agents and their impact on notion of collections
3. Through live-polling, discuss how academic libraries are developing strategies to understand and meet their users’ needs
1. How do we define the library collection?
2. What do collections imply?
3. What is involved in building a collection?
4. What does it mean to build a collection or develop a collection policy?
What's a Collection Anyway?

Oya Y. Rieger

DOI: https://doi.org/10.18665/sr.311525

Introduction: Collections at the Heart of Academic Libraries

In 1953, Kenneth J. Braugh stated that the mission of Harvard’s library was to collect and preserve everything. Those days are long gone. For the last couple of decades, given the rapid expansion of scholarly content sources and types, even the best-funded research libraries have become cognizant that a comprehensive collection is an unattainable vision. Nevertheless, many research library mission statements continue to give prominence to their role in making the world’s knowledge...

Key Drivers of Change

- Changing nature of scholarly record
- Preference for discovery and access at scale and online
- Growing emphasis on OA and transforming scholarly communication
- Increasing prominence of distinctive collections
- Evolving library priorities
Regardless of the expansion of library services upstream to support early stages of scholarly workflows, libraries continue to be identified and branded by their collections.
A 2017 study based on 82 million holdings in 212 libraries found that 42 percent of books had never circulated and that 75 percent had three or fewer circulations.
Facilitated collection as a coordinated mix of local, external, and collaborative services built around users’ actual needs and behaviors, moving from a just-in-case to just-in-time information landscape.
Vision to create a broad network without institutional boundaries
Librarians have been discussing the idea of building capacity through collaborations and consortia since Farmington Plan (1942)
Many libraries feel pressured to focus on their own home institutions’ priorities and prove their importance and uniqueness to their senior leadership.
Redefining Library Collections
Collective Collections

governance and ownership models
retention commitments
preservation strategies
access and discovery
Digital Scholarship

collections as data
librarians as technologists
Selection and Budget Models

subject and liaison models
collection development policies
interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research
Value Driven Collections

inclusive and diverse collections
partnerships with community archives
sophisticated workflow tools

scholars’ daily workflows
seamless end-to-end services
Legacy Missions in Times of Change:
Impacts on Collection Services & Roles

Antje Mays
Director of Collections
University of Kentucky Libraries

Presented November 6, 2019
Collections: Evolutions and Pressures

Business models & Budget constraints → keeping up, or diverging?
• Publisher packages
• Consortium deals
• Digital proliferation: e-resources and streaming media
• Resource licensing frameworks

Broadly speaking...
• Access vs. ownership: leased content vs. outright purchase
• Supporting OA infrastructures vs. selecting materials:
  • → headed for resource competition? (time, budget capacity, organizational focus)
• Unique local collections ←→ digitization projects
• Selection versus curation
Divergent Portfolios, Diffusion of Effort

- Evolving library directions:
  - maker spaces
  - emerging technologies
  - artificial intelligence
  - machine learning
  - augmented reality
  - research data services
  - data curation
  - digital humanities
  - open access
  - institutional repositories
  - the library as publisher
  - collections as a service
The Collections as a Service movement

Collections as a Service: A Research Library's Perspective
Julie Linden, Sarah Tudesca, Daniel Dollar

Abstract
ACRL’s “2016 Top Trends in Academic Libraries” noted a “shift to the incorporation and integration of more continuous, ongoing, flexible, and sustainable review of collections,” and “an increasing need to align collection development with institutional research and curricular requirements.” This article describes these trends playing out at a top-ranked research library. Given the library’s long history of collecting print books, the article examines the monographic acquisitions program from multiple angles, including circulation, expenditures, approval plans, and e-book usage. There are also suggestions for additional metrics to evaluate collections as a service, as well as questions posed to frame an ongoing research and assessment agenda. The models described in this case study and the proposed research and assessment agenda can be adapted by other academic libraries, both to fit local institutional needs and as collection development and “collections as a service” are increasingly realized within interinstitutional collaborative networks.

Libraries and librarians no longer serve as the gatekeepers of information but are instead facilitators of access.
Pain Points for Liaison Librarians:

• Major families of pain points
  • (as identified in the "Dangerous Liaisons..." 2018 Charleston Conference session)
Liaisons: Structural Pain Points

High turnover:
- High librarian turnover

Information Silos:
- Different liaisons doing different things and not sharing ideas to collective group.

Loss of Focus ➔ Losing Sight of Values
- Balancing between changing to meet current campus needs and constantly pivoting so quickly that we lose sight of core needs and values
Liaisons: Pain Points - Workloads

- High workload due to increasing instruction needs.
- Large portfolios, competing priorities, lack of time to excel in multiple areas.
- Liaison is being asked to represent everything the library does.
- Liaisons are overworked; much campus growth, same number of subject liaisons even as # of functional liaisons continues to grow. Sustainability!
- Time, liaison responsibilities are secondary to functional (but to do it "well" it's a lot of work), varying levels of comfort with outreach and communication to faculty.
- Work overload.
Liaisons: Pain Points - Spread of Duties:

- High workload due to increasing instruction needs.
- Not enough time to focus on faculty needs given all my other responsibilities. There is not a culture at my current institution of having close ties with the faculty. Our liaison faculty role is simply another title we have but with no responsibility.
- Liaison is being asked to represent everything the library does.
- Time, liaison responsibilities are secondary to functional (but to do it "well" it's a lot of work), varying levels of comfort with outreach and communication to faculty.
Liaisons: Team issues ↔ Information silos

- Wild Wild West - Other librarians reaching out to liaison programs without informing the actual liaison.
- Difficulty with teamwork and collaboration, building new relationships with faculty, lack of awareness of new expectations around assessment, outreach, project management/time management and planning.
- Different liaisons doing different things and not sharing ideas to collective group.
Liaisons: Pain Points - Skill needs

- Lack of mentoring for new liaisons.
- Knowledge.
- Large portfolios, competing priorities, lack of time to excel in multiple areas.
- Difficulty with teamwork and collaboration, building new relationships with faculty, lack of awareness of new expectations around assessment, outreach, project management/time management and planning.
Audience Participation:

Poll Results

What type of organization are you with?

- Academic library: 2-4 year college: 5
- Academic library: research: 9
- College / University - other office: 0
- Government office: 0
- Corporate library: 0
- Publisher: 1
- Vendor: 1
- Other: 0

Total respondents: 16
What best describes your role?

[Bar chart showing the distribution of roles among respondents. The roles and their counts are:
- Acquisitions: 1
- Administrator: 5
- Collections: 6
- Digital collections: 0
- OA curator: 0
- Special Collections: 0
- Subject bibliographer: 2
- Subject instructor: 0
- Research librarian: 0
- Data librarian: 0
- Vendor: 2
- Other: 5]
Library & industry trends: Please rate their importance.

1. Business models & Budget constraints
2. Collaborative repositories
3. Consortium deals
4. Proliferation of digital media
5. Publisher packages
6. Resource licensing frameworks
Collection types: Please rank by importance.

1st: Subscriptions all formats: journals, databases etc
2nd: Print materials
3rd: Streaming media
4th: Digital archival collections
5th: Special collections & rare books
6th: Datasets to purchase as library resource
Broader trends: Please rank by importance.

1st: Access vs. ownership: leased content vs. purchase

2nd: Digitization of unique local collections

3rd: OA infrastructures support vs. collection-building
Newly developing library services: Please rank by importance.

1st: Data curation
2nd: Data visualization
3rd: Text & datamining (TDM)
4th: Maker spaces
5th: Augmented reality (AR)
6th: Virtual reality (VR)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data storage</th>
<th>Specialized research support</th>
<th>The emphasis that many libraries are now placing on &quot;global impact&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Workflow tools</td>
<td>Programs and course offerings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortial preservation and collection building</td>
<td>Collaboration tools</td>
<td>Higher Education Trends; Online Education and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space issues, data storage,</td>
<td>Open data assistance</td>
<td>Open education resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential effect of staffing and workflows on purchasing decisions i.e. subscription vs other purchase models</td>
<td>Digital preservation</td>
<td>Accessibility considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student project support</td>
<td>Online education and being asked to provide course materials in online environment</td>
<td>Storage of materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook affordability</td>
<td>textbook affordability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Big Deal: Important? Expendable? Sound off here!

It depends on the deal!

- still cost effective
- not always bad
- we need better deals
- necessary evil
- depends on institution
- institutional dependence
- sometimes the best option
- better than title by title
- collection analysis
- inflation ties up too much
- value depends on users
- can be very effective
- your milage may vary
- return on investment

Both / and. Some big deals are super helpful. Some are too expensive and restrictive. One minus of a high dollar big deal, even if it is good value is the inflation cost. Too much $ tied up just in inflation.
Investing in Open Access

- My institution has an OA budget: 1
- We track OA expenses: 1.1
- We have reallocated to OA from other areas: 0.8

0 = No, not at all
5 = Yes, very much so
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutional repository</th>
<th>Institutional repository</th>
<th>SCOAP3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoap3</td>
<td>Paying author fees</td>
<td>IR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>institutional repository</td>
<td>Institutional Repository</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various OA products (KU, scoop, IR)</td>
<td>Institutional pre and post print repository. Funded some newspaper OA projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional repository but not much to encourage faculty publication in these journals</td>
<td>arXiv and SCOAP3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding OA resources to the catalog</td>
<td>ArXiv</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web archiving</td>
<td>OA policy</td>
<td>ArXiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting OA monograph and OA digital archive projects</td>
<td>Can Unpaywall be considered OA? Probably not, but looking into it as alternative to licensed content</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truly transformative deals</td>
<td>Host another OA journal at our university press</td>
<td>We plan to start tracking OA support better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformative agreements</td>
<td>New IR</td>
<td>Signing transformative agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track OA support</td>
<td>Transformative agreements</td>
<td>Better leverage our partnership with press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know institution’s plans!</td>
<td>Would like to share digitized video with library partners. Copyright issues a concern</td>
<td>Unpaywall, not OA per se but alternate to paid content</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library as Publisher: Are you involved in publishing projects?

- Yes: 6
- No: 10

Total: 16
What library publishing projects are you involved in?

- Student journals
- Paying hosting fees for OA journal
- Regional research speciality journal through IR platform
- Student journals
- Student journal
- Supporting institutional repository
- Digitation projects
- Supporting our first open journal and looking to expand
Are you or your organization involved in digital humanities & digital scholarship?
**Diversity, equity, social justice --> collection program impact?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not really</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, when choosing content to digitize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To some extent...</td>
<td>Yes revamped print purchasing to include more small press and alternative views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, when firm ordering, always keep diversity in mind</td>
<td>Yes in response to teaching in sociology and other academic areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity is a non-curricular assessment on campus. So yes</td>
<td>Yes, it is part of the university’s founding...we are actively considering DEI with collections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are working with faculty to help them discover cases and learning objects featuring diverse protagonists.
Are collection policies still important?

- Yes: 12
- No: 3

Total: 15
Resource sharing: taken for granted, or new dawn?

Lowest value: 0 = Taken for granted

Highest value: 5 = Highly valued
Preservation & Conservation at Your Library?

0 = No, not at all

2.2
My library has a physical formats preservation and conservation program

2.5
My library has a digital preservation program

5 = Yes, in-depth and advanced

13
What needed collection skills would you like to develop?

Data analysis  Data and counter5
Your closing thoughts: free-form & open-ended
For further reading: References


For further reading: References, ctd.


For further reading: References, ctd.


Questions?

Oya Rieger
Ithaka S-R
https://sr.ithaka.org/people/oya-y-rieger

Antje Mays
University of Kentucky
https://works.bepress.com/antjemays

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Thank You