

Academic libraries: Future perspectives

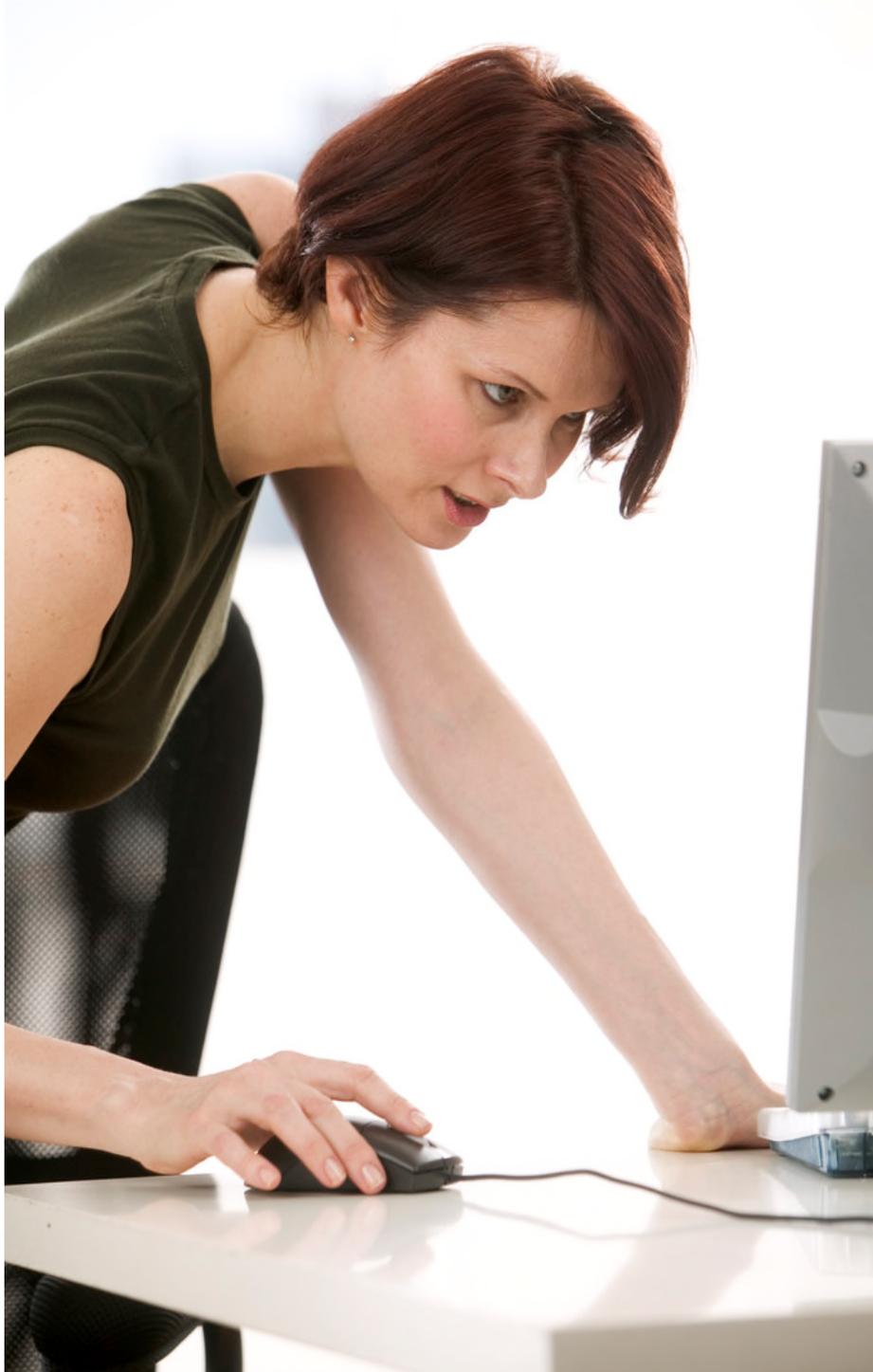
Kara Jones

University of Bath

ALPSP :: Publishing and the Library of the Future – What next?

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Overview

- **Influences**
- **Library 2.0**
- **Repackaging collections**
- **The evolving role of the librarian**

Academic library influences

Who are our users?

academics alumni community members franchised courses other support departments partner colleges postdocs **researchers** taught courses **undergraduates** university administration and staff walk-in users

What?

A&I archivists books **budgets** collection development discipline differences **copyright** consortia customer service databases ebooks **ejournals** generic skills journals mission OA advocates other libraries **preservation** professional associations publishers **space planning** staffing subscription agents **technology** VAT web 2.0

want want want

- Libraries want relief from journal prices
- Authors want impact
- Scientists want faster and easier access to others' research
- Universities want a better return on their investment in intellectual capital
- Publishers want robust and profitable communication systems

All to the same end?

The only constant is the desire to see scholarly communication continue – the model and choices are up for discussion.

There's no scholarship without scholarly communication.

(Paul Courant qtd by Clifford Lynch 2006)



Library 2.0

- ‘a library service that operates according to the expectations of today’s library users’ (Chad & Miller *Do Libraries Matter?* Nov 2005)
- Creating environments that are dynamic – both physically and online
- Being responsive to library user needs and inviting participation
- Carry on providing the library as a trusted brand and provider.

Repackaging collections

- Collaboration
 - Consortia, alliances, licensing, reciprocal schemes
 - Consolidating print collections i.e. UK Research Reserve
- Preservation
 - Curation of digital resources
 - Repositories of research
 - Perpetual access to e-resources
 - Access vs. ownership models in flux
 - Engage in online preservation i.e. CLOCKSS (JSToR, Portico)

Repackaging collections

- Standards
 - interoperability between systems
 - open APIs
 - mashups
 - repurposing information – ‘bricolage’
- Accessibility

Repackaging collections

- **The Library as a social environment** – pressure to repurpose space particularly for undergraduates to learn and communicate: Millennial style:
 - multi-tasking
 - collaborating
 - format agnostic
 - experiential learners
 - digital natives (Jones S. 2002 qtd. in Oblinger D. 2003)
- **Changing physical spaces**
 - Journal paper copies no longer desirable
 - Accessioning and storage expensive for libraries
 - Researchers want access from their desktop
 - Issue of VAT for electronic resources

Repackaging collections

- The rise of recommendation and review
 - value-adding to manage information overload
 - i.e. Faculty of 1000 Biology
 - Interacting and presenting information in new ways engaging with readers, co-producing, collaborating
- E-books
 - preference for aggregators/subscription agent collections?



Repackaging collections



Findability

- Move towards exposure, disclosure and discovery
(Demsey Lorcan Symposium Transcript. *The Research Library in the 21st Century.*)
 - Quality metadata for harvesting
 - Open up content to search tools
 - Persistent identifiers
 - Seamless provision of content (!)
 - Before: cataloguing rules, controlled vocabularies, authorities
 - Now: tagging, folksonomies, recommendation, review
- Abstracts & Indexes – replaced by Google scholar?

The evolving role of the librarian*

- Custodian
 - Of print-based and digitised archives and special collections
 - Assistant Keeper of Printed Books (Special Collections)
- Teacher
 - Of information literacy and related skills
 - Academic Development Librarian – *integration of information literacy into the curriculum*
 - Advanced Information Retrieval Skills Librarian
- Subject-based information expert
 - Based in the library
 - Academic Liaison Librarian – *liaison, negotiation, promotion with depts.*
 - Information Specialist

*(*Researchers' Use of Academic Libraries and their Services Report* commissioned by RIN and CURL April 2007 p. 43-48)



The evolving role of the librarian*

- Administrator
 - Dealing with the purchasing and delivery of information services
 - Head of Reader Services, Technical services manager
- Manager
 - Of institutional repositories
 - eResearch Access Coordinator. *Investigates systems for the organisation and citation of research datasets*
- Facilitator
 - For e-learning supporting Virtual Learning Environments
 - Head of Learning Centre – *lead and coordinate e-learning strategy, develop the VLE, ..a key player in the provision of resources to support learning and learners.*

*(Researchers' Use of Academic Libraries and their Services Report commissioned by RIN and CURL April 2007 p. 43-48)



The evolving role of the librarian*

- Technology specialists
 - Facilitating electronic access to information resources
 - Metadata Librarian
 - Resource Delivery Information Specialist
- Information Technology expert
 - Supporting technical aspects (e.g. networks, authentication)
 - Systems & Web Development Librarian – *create, integrate, structure and ensure access to digital information services*
 - E-Systems Information Specialist – *systems administration*
- Specialist advisor
 - In copyright / intellectual property rights issues
 - Learning Technology Librarian – *advise on copyright issues and using library resources in e-learning.*
 - *Support for researchers as authors?*

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Challenges

- Keeping up with new technologies
- Deluge of information – what's reliable?
- Diversification of information
- Finding out what we don't know
- Working within budgets, constantly top-sliced

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a steep, grassy hillside slopes down towards the right. The middle ground features a rugged coastline with dark, rocky cliffs meeting a vibrant blue sea. The background shows rolling green hills under a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

Kara Jones
Research Publications Librarian
University of Bath
Em: K.L.Jones@bath.ac.uk
Ph: +44 (0)1225 385809

Background

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