

The Future of The Library

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Provocations

- Do we need a library building to be relevant?
- Will we disappear if no one knows we are supplying the digital information?
- Where does all the digital data go?
- Have Librarians attained the status of sacred cow?
- What is the essence of “library-ness” that will outlive all change?

Agenda:

1. The Context of Disruption
2. So What Are You Going To Do?

Libraries confront a variety of disruptive technologies and these technologies will disrupt libraries.

David W. Lewis

A Strategy for Academic Libraries
in the First Quarter of the 21st Century
2007

History of Libraries 101

- Processes refined over hundreds of years
- Tiers of staff
- Hierarchical organizational structure
- Selectors / Purchasers / Gate-keepers
- Preservers
- Authorities
- Value based on numbers of items owned
- Value unquestioned

WIKIPEDIA



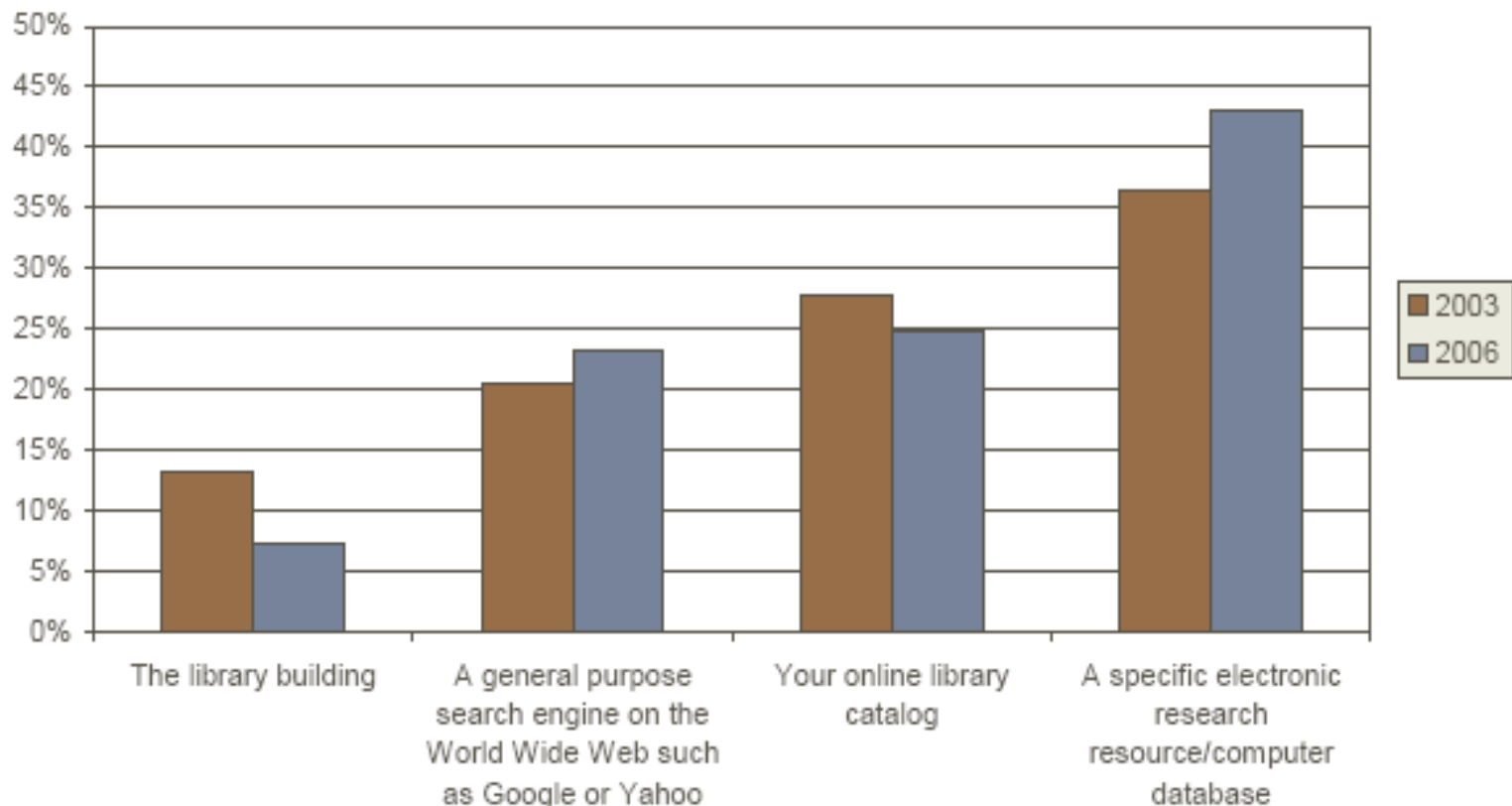




Where does research start?

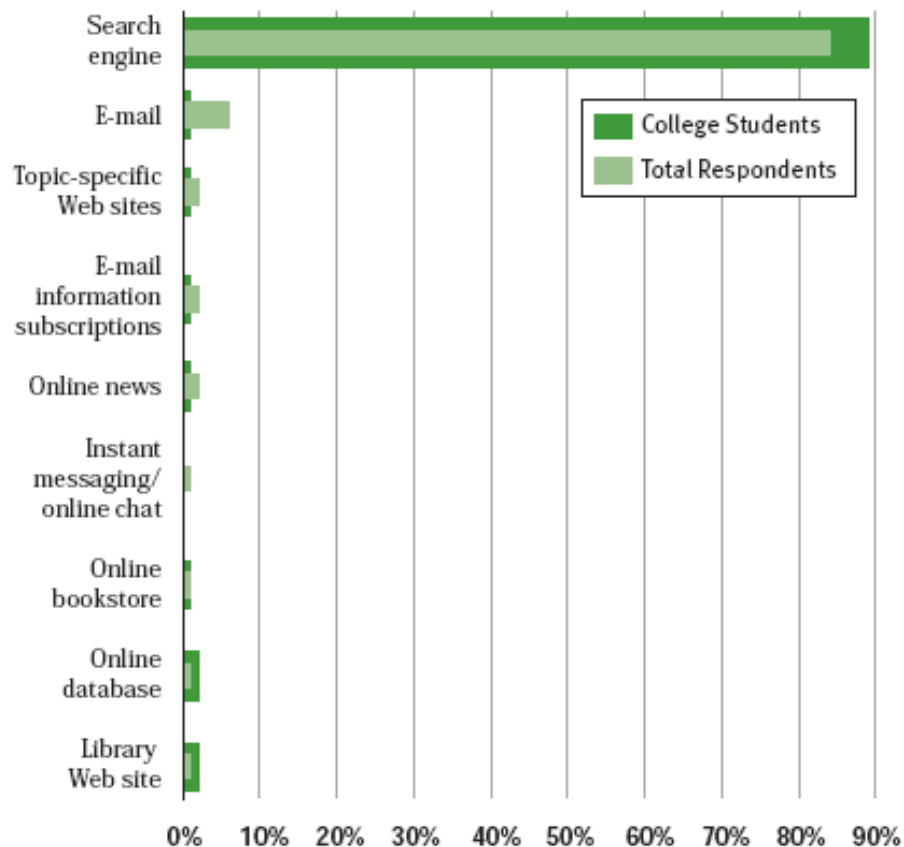
ITHAKA'S 2006 STUDIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Figure 5: Starting point for research identified by faculty, in 2003 and 2006.



Where Electronic Information Searches Begin— by College Students and Total Respondents

Where do you typically begin your search for information on a particular topic?



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 520.

Note: Only electronic resources with usage rates of 1 percent or more are represented on this graph.

“Perhaps no problem facing the individual scientist is more defeating than the effort to cope with the flood of published scientific research, even within one’s own narrow specialty.”

Bentley Glass

Department of Biology, Johns Hopkins University

1954



The Big Picture:

Culture is changing in two big areas:

- Information and Communication
- More of both, more kinds of both, more continuous change in both, more individual ownership of both, and each becomes the other.

Why does this matter?

- Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship are about communication and information.
- Rooted in old C's:
 - control, credentials, conduits, classes, curricula, collection-building, calm.
- New C's coming in:
 - creation, curation, collective, collaboration, community-orientation, constructivist, casual, constant, chaotic.

Exercise: Context of Disruption

Time: 15 minutes

Goal: At your table, name the top 3 disruptors in your environment

Group Feedback:
What are the top 3 disruptors in your
environment?

Our own disruptors:

- Dis-Interested Stakeholders
- Merged Organization
- Old building
- Insulated staff
- Growing numbers of graduate students
- Sciences becoming self-sufficient
- Cost (of everything)
- Accountability and assessment

Part 2

So What are you Going to Do?

Stuff
Space
People

It's a bit about the stuff

What happens when you don't control
the stuff anymore?

Who's keeping stuff safe?

It's a bit about the space

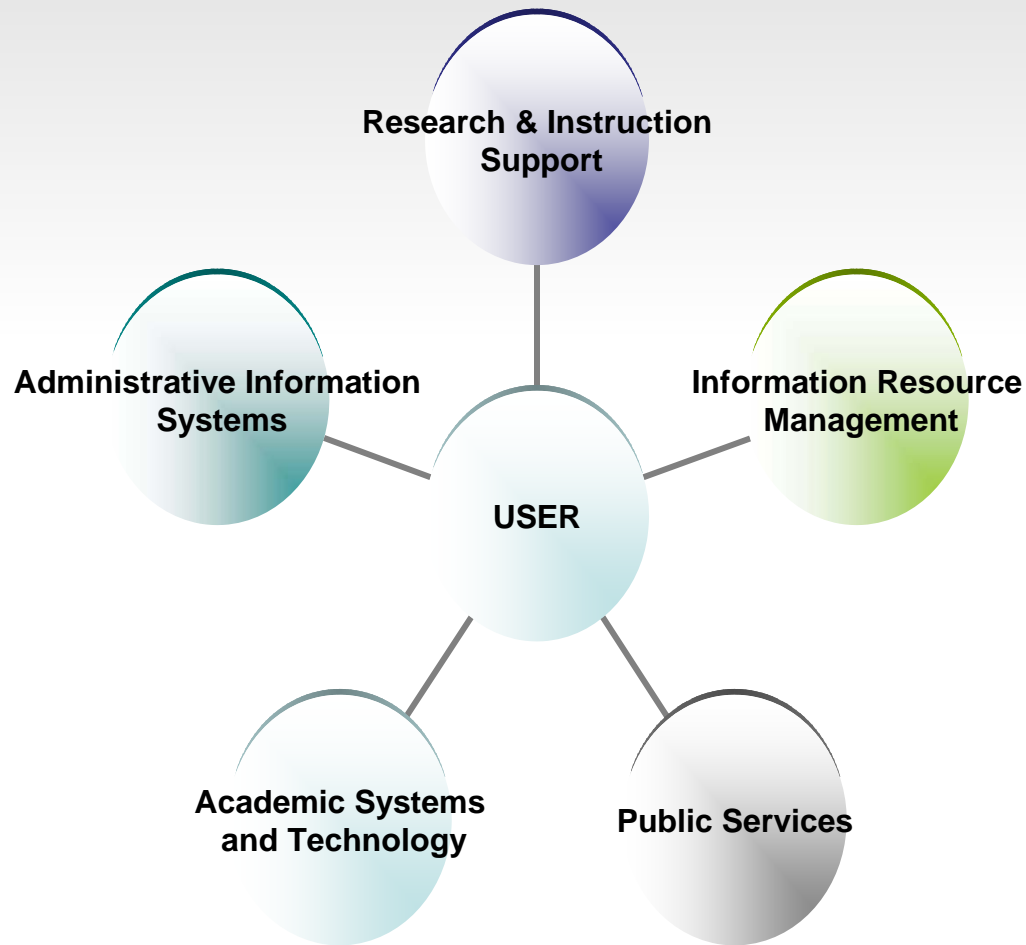
You want people in your library . . .
But what do you do with them there
that adds value?

It's all about the people

People, Part 1:

USERS

- What do they need?
- What do they do?
- Do they know?
- Do you know?



People, Part 2:

STAFF

- What do they need to know?
- What do they need to know how to do?
- Do they know?
- Do you know?

Exercise: What are You Going to Do?

Time: 15 minutes

Goal: At your table, name 3 things your library should do to add value to the institution

Group Feedback:

Top 3 things libraries should do to be of value to the institution

What WE think libraries should be doing

Yesterday

Book
Warehouse

High tech
study hall

Today

Information
Gateway

Academic
Support

Tomorrow

Learning &
Teaching Partner

Publisher

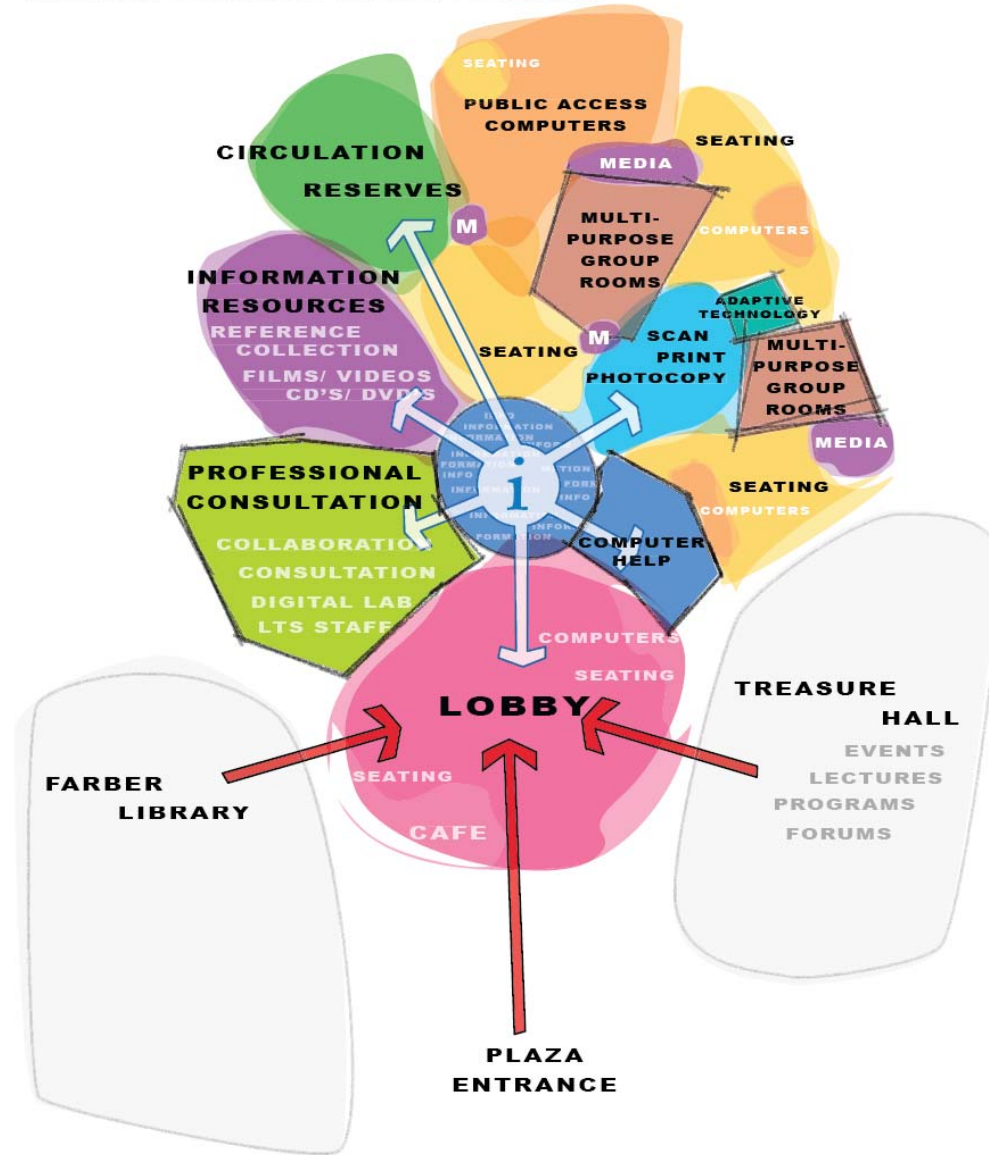
Navigators of the
information
environment





Brandeis Institutional Repository

BRANDEIS COMMONS CONCEPT DIAGRAM



Strategies We've Adopted

- Purchase single format, digital preferred
- Focus on unique resources
- Give up idea of print repository, ownership
- Outsource routine processes
- Cultivate resource-sharing partnerships
- Create collaborative staff spaces
- Insist on matrix management
- Set Priorities

Our Priorities

1. Engage with the community
2. Develop and support LATTE
3. Shift to online documentation
4. Develop critical literacies instruction
5. Develop vast new staff skills
6. Develop access to information
7. Just-in-case staffing
8. Traditional selection activities

- No longer control information, or the access to information
- DIY user community not looking for mediation
- Budgets don't support acquisition of information
- Preservation: physical v digital

- Ongoing “library-ness” = knowledge of the information world
- What’s changing is how to apply that knowledge – no longer within internal, insulated organizations, but out in the world of learning, teaching and scholarship

See you in 2020

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