The Future of Library Print Collections: Offsiting, Downsizing, Cloudsourcing

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It’s a Big Issue

Almost 1 BILLION volumes

Over 980 million volumes in academic libraries in North America

About 70 million volumes in library storage facilities

About 25 million volumes added each year

NCES ALS + ARL statistics 2008
There are No Good Options

- Mass Weeding
- Stop Buying
- Expand Library
- High Density Shelving

More feasible

Less space

More space

Less feasible
80+ library storage facilities, most built in the last 15 years

High-density facility: a separate building purpose-built for long-term housing of very large quantities of library materials

More than 50% of all ARL libraries have separate shelving facilities
Permanent Migrations from Open Stacks

University of Chicago
- Underground ASRS, opened May 2011
- Capacity 3.5 million volumes (almost 50% of collection)

San Francisco State University
- Building new library with ASRS to open in spring 2012
- Only about 250,000 volumes will return to open stacks, about 1 million to remain in ASRS

University of Denver
- Moved 100% of library collection to high-density offsite facility in summer 2011 during 18-month remodel
- Determining how many will return to open stacks
Mass Weeding an Increasingly Necessary Option
Mass Weeding (or “Deselection”)

“...for a librarian

it's like your best friend just got bitten by a zombie

and you're the only one with a gun.”

S. Peter Davis. “6 Reasons We're In Another 'Book-Burning' Period in History” Cracked, October 11, 2011 http://www.cracked.com/article_19453_6-reasons-were-in-another-book-burning-period-in-history.html
Major Deselection Projects in the News

UC San Diego

- Removing 150,000 volumes (4% of collection) after state budget cuts forced closure of four campus libraries

Sustainable Collections Services, Inc.

- 12 major deselection projects completed or underway in 2011
- Libraries from small (200,000 volumes) to large (2 million) including University of Vermont and James Madison University
Another Arrow in the Quiver

- **Mass Deselection**
  - Permanent withdrawals

- **High Density Shelving**
  - Remove from open stacks

- **Shared Print Collections**
  - Coordinate holdings with others
Most Common Attributes of Current Shared Print Programs

- Journals
- Selection: by publisher, especially based on availability of digital versions
- Retention: specified term, often 25 years
- Ownership: original owning library
- Access/delivery: “light archives” available via ILL
- Business model: libraries absorb own costs
Shared Print Programs in North America

Shared Storage Copy
- UC RLFs
- OhioLINK
- PASCAL
- WRLC
- Minnesota MLAC
- Florida Statewide Shared Collection

Library-Nominated Titles
- ASERL Journal Retention
- TRLN Single Copy Archive
- OCUL Thunder Bay Agreement

By Publisher
- CIC Shared Print Repository
- Orbis-Cascade Alliance
- PALCI
- Five Colleges (MA)
- COPPUL

By Domain
- ASERL Collab Fed Depository Program
- CRL Agriculture and Law IMLS project
- LIPA Law preservation program

By Custom Analysis
- Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST)
- Maine Shared Collections (TBD)

Partial list
Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST) (103 libraries)
CIC (13 libraries)
ASERL (40 libraries)

More than 50% of all ARL libraries participate in one of these
## Key Features of WEST, CIC, and ASERL Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WEST</th>
<th>CIC-SPR</th>
<th>ASERL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members</strong></td>
<td>103</td>
<td>10+</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Archive facilities</strong></td>
<td>Libraries and storage facilities</td>
<td>Indiana U. storage facility</td>
<td>Libraries and storage facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selection</strong></td>
<td>By risk profile</td>
<td>STM from Elsevier, Springer, Wiley</td>
<td>Library-nominated</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ownership</strong></td>
<td>Archive Holder</td>
<td>Original Owner</td>
<td>Original Owner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Retention</strong></td>
<td>25 years (to 2035)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td>Digital preferred; physical in-library only</td>
<td>[TBD]</td>
<td>At owning library’s discretion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Business Model</strong></td>
<td>Share upfront costs of ingest</td>
<td>Share upfront costs of ingest AND ongoing retention</td>
<td>No cost sharing, libraries absorb own costs</td>
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Monographs are the New Frontier

- Last-copy programs e.g. CARLI in Illinois
- ReCAP planning for shared collection including monographs
- Maine Shared Collections program being defined
- Hathi Trust endorsed “distributed print archive of monograph holdings corresponding to [digital] volumes”
Hathi Trust May Be Game Changer

- Working Assumptions:
  - Distributed archive based on holdings of Hathi members
  - Compensation or partial subsidy for libraries that retain
  - Available to Hathi members (i.e. light archive)
Hathi Collection Overlap

75% of Hathi titles stored at LC, UC, CRL facilities

45 - 50% of typical academic library collection matches Hathi titles

Analysis courtesy OCLC Research “Cloud Library Project”
Shared Monographs Require a Different Model

- Copyright issues
  - Only ~27% of Hathi titles in public domain

- Delivery issues
  - Searchers more likely to want full print version
  - Keep more copies available?
  - Print on demand?

- Space reclamation issues
  - How to make monograph deselection cost-effective
    - By subject?
    - By branch?
1. Disclose holdings that have been digitized or committed to shared print

2. Develop community standards and agreements to preserve print
Disclosing Shared Print Holdings

OCLC

WorldCat

PAPR
Directory of Print Archive Programs

PAPR
Archived Titles and Holdings

Archived Holdings

Library Catalogs

Archived Holdings

Consortial Criteria

Holdings for analysis

Archiving Proposals

Deselection Reports
Shared Print Community Forum

- Shared Print discussion group Fridays at ALA (informal but longstanding)

- Print Archives Network (PAN) listserv hosted by CRL
  - Msg to listserv@listserv.crl.edu
  - Subscribe PAN “Your Name”

- CRL’s new Global Resources Forum offers community discussions by web meeting.
  - Dec 7: Dark archives, light archives, and optimal copies
“Disappearance of print will be like falling off a cliff, not gradual”

Tim O’Reilly
National Digital Stewardship Alliance
Partners Meeting
July 19, 2011
Let us create the safety net.

And all the rest!
THANK YOU

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