Trends in Research Libraries 2015

Academic & Research Library Standing Committee members were asked in advance of the 2016 conference to submit lists of key areas of interest or concern in their country of residence. Those lists are below. The lists were discussed at the committee's first planning session, and served to inform program development for the 2017 conference.

Contents:

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Australia

Vicki McDonald

- Funding constraints influencing new organisational structures, collaborative arrangements, efficiencies etc. - which also put more focus on evidence based decision making and metrics

- Digital preservation and digital skills - in the case of NSLA (National and State Libraries Australasia) has included initiatives such as audits of obsolete carriers; national media campaigns to promote digital preservation through Digital Preservation Week; joint projects related to Rosetta (Ex Libris); collaborative activity for the National Digital Legal Deposit; and training initiatives to develop capability. See http://www.nsla.org.au/news/latest-project-news
- Supporting research which encompasses a range of issues: linked data, research support skills, managing data, open data, open access, measuring impact.
- University libraries doing work ensuring research centres understand cost of publishing - potential impact of OA etc.

Botswana

Oarabile Rakgamanyane
- Migration AACR2 to Resource description and Access (RDA)
- Migration from Millennium to Sierra
- ILS as part of Botswana Accounting College curriculum to enhance life-long learning in line with digital literacy to contribute to institutional research
- Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) Library was transformed into a Knowledge Commons and opened its doors to clients in February 2016.
- University of Botswana recently purchased disability computers with Jaws software, specialised keyboards, Magnifier and Braille printer for visually impaired and blind students in line with Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled (MVT) (2013).

Canada

Gerald Beasley
- Copyright (our Copyright Modernisation Act will be subject to a mandatory 5-year review in 2017; lobbying is already under way).
- Research Data Management (funding agencies are requesting DMPs and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' new RDM service, Portage, has been launched)
- Rights for Indigenous Communities (responding to last year's national Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, which placed education at the centre of many First Nations/Métis/Inuit issues)
- Significant budget concerns especially around the dramatic fall in the value of the C$ vis-a-vis the US$

Finland

Jarmo Saarti

- -open science, open access and open data
- -budget cutbacks, reorganization of the libraries and staff (re)education
- -management issues for building the future academic library
- -strategic issues: the changing role of the libraries
- -digitalization

Germany

Andreas Degkwitz

- new copyright regulations
- e-research support services ==> cooperation with different players of the academic support facilities
- research data management ==> digital humanities
- open science ==> the European open science cloud
- open access transformation ==> article processing charges, offsetting models etc. vs subscription models
- next generation library systems ==> standardization of data formats and workflows
- long term preservation - hosting services like Portico and/or LOCKSS

China

Xiaolin Zhang

- Data service, but going beyond just repositories, into project-lifecycle based data management, open data, data management & processing as part of research & learning workflow, and extend library roles and functions into developing data centric domain information infrastructure.
- Research support services, including trend analysis, emerging topic detection, competition & collaboration analysis, and evidence-based strategy & policy analytics. (Libraries as big-data-driven knowledge discovery enabler).
- Open access, what libraries should act (not just passively cope) when flipping to open access is in full gear and when the funders and research communities are driving the change?
- New organizational models, to enable innovation, collaboration, and transitional changes.

Hong Kong

Leo Ma

- Sustainable development in academic libraries in terms of environment, resources, technologies and services.
- Supporting student learning and success through embedding library services into the curriculum
- The impact of academic libraries to the university community and beyond
- Advocate the value and relevance of academic libraries in higher education
- Shared Integrated Library System among academic libraries
- Enhancing collaborative information literacy programme among academic libraries

Italy

Jan Simane

- Evaluation of a 10-years programme: Master Digital Library Learning; investments in new teaching programs for the ‚digital curator/librarian'. The question whether of a completely new profession type or the modification of the already existing model is needed has been discussed intensively in the last time.
- "Internet culturale": Thanks to the huge number of historical sites and libraries in Italy, the challenge to develop modern (digital) forms of preserving patrimony and to enhance access to many hidden treasures has been recognized in recent times. Research on historical collections and sources is combined with the application of digital tools.
- Linked Open Data: Italy is active in building new library networks based on the interoperability and integration of data (going beyond mere catalogue records). This is not least a consequence of difficult economical conditions in public institutions. Collaboration has been recognized as a way to overcome some financial deficits.
- General situation: the economical crisis in Italy, lasting for many years now and aggravated in 2009/10, got most libraries into major trouble. The budgets have been cut dramatically and the personnel has strongly been reduced. Thus, Italian libraries are hovering between struggle for survival and strategies for the future.

New Zealand

Janet Fletcher

- **Course reading lists and Copyright Licensing New Zealand (CLNZ)**
  - Due to a court ruling between CLNZ and NZ universities, all institutions are required to report annually to CLNZ on use of copyrighted material. To

achieve this, six universities have purchased Talis (via a consortium). The remaining two universities are using another system.

- **ORCiD**
  - o Research institutions across New Zealand have agreed to support the use of ORCiD as the common researcher identifier across New Zealand's research and science system.
- **Research Data Management**
  - o In 2015, the Council of New Zealand University Libraries (CONZUL) established a working group to advise on the current state of research data management and to make recommendations on how to progress. Based on the report, this year CONZUL has been working on developing a National Research Data Registry and discussing the best approach for licensing research data.
- **Productivity Commission**
  - o The New Zealand Productivity Commission is investigating new models for tertiary education. The focus of the inquiry will be on how trends in technology, tuition costs, skills demand, demography and internationalisation etc, may drive changes in business models and delivery models.
- **PBRF**
  - o The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) is a performance-based funding system to encourage and reward excellent research in New Zealand's degree-granting organisations. The next round of the PBRF quality assessment is in 2018. Victoria University of Wellington is the first-ranked university in New Zealand within the current PBRF.
- **Open Access**
  - o There is strong support across the New Zealand library sector to encourage open access. One issue that we are currently dealing with is that we don't know how many of our researchers are currently paying article processing charges (APCs) to publish in fully open access or hybrid journals. NZ university libraries have agreed to try to find out the activity either by surveying academic staff and/or by analysing publications held in institutional repositories/research publication systems.

Singapore

Gulcin Cribb

1. **User Experience (UX) and spaces**
   a. UX goes beyond simple usability studies. Librarians need to understand their users holistically and think of the life of library in the user as opposed to user in the library of the librarian. Use of Analytics tools to provide greater insights on trends of Library Users' reading and learning behaviour
   b. Redefining and Remaking **Library spaces** to enrich user experience;

    c. Engaging and partnering with users to **co-create Library services**

    d. Provide innovative programmes and library space to inspire creativity, critical inquiry, learning and knowledge creation

    a. Flexible learning spaces: Provide library spaces for collaboration and group learning as well as quiet and reflective learning, makerspaces, community spaces, and keeping spaces flexible to response to changing campus needs

    b. Rethinking library spaces for new ways of learning, e.g. Makerspaces, collaborative spaces, enabling self-organised learning

    c. Delivery for learning-on-the-go to improve the user experience

2. **Analytics/Sensors/Intelligent systems**: a confluence of many factors both from within and outside the libraries has led this to become an emerging area. Most Singapore academic and research libraries have implemented dashboards, people counter systems and centralized analytics database to extract related data elements from various sources. Library systems have become more open, supporting analytics better. Demand to **show value** (using these systems) of library and for accountability is a top trend. This trend is closely linked to increased importance of 'culture of assessment' in libraries.

3. **Research**

    a. Enrich collections to support scholarship, focusing on emerging and digital scholarship

    b. Data - policies and management plans; discovery and re-use of data; semantic web and linked data

    c. Open access and Open data

4. **Learning**

    a. **Recognising out of classroom learning**: how can information literacy classes interaction time be recognised in academic or co-curricular activities.

    b. **Learning Analytics**: designing learning programmes around data from analytics

    c. **Convergence of Instruction and RIS** for teachable moments.

    d. **Blended learning/Flipped classroom**: Increasing use of blended learning and flipped classroom in user instructions where content is learnt online while in-class time is devoted to exercises and discussions. The use of social and collaborative tools to encourage active learning has also contributed to improvement in learning outcomes.

    e. Improving information and **digital literacy** in light of self-directed online learning and life-long learning

5. **System Security and Governance**

    a. Increasing emphasis and requirements in **IT systems security and governance** from the government for government agencies, including Libraries and library internet-accessible services, since 2013. Library staff are now expected to understand and handle security vulnerabilities, and Library system vendors are also expected to fix security vulnerabilities promptly

    b. Aggregated **procurement** of library resources: The idea for polytechnic and ITE libraries to collaborate on tenders to appoint procurement term contractors arose from the national Economy Drive initiative. With the combined estimated

purchasing value, aggregated procurement contracts facilitated the participating libraries to enjoy higher discount rates for books and media resources purchased from selected vendor(s).

6. **Technology**
   a. Delivery of mobile content
   b. Managing competition from online sources of information discovery
7. **Talent Management**
   a. Develop staff capabilities to be effective partners in supporting evolving research and learning needs
   b. Redefining the roles of librarians and developing staff capabilities so that they have new skills in areas such as data analytics, information visualization, user engagement, etc.

Spain

Adelaida Ferrer Torrens

- In the area of student services, it has provided space for group learning, creative spaces.
- In the field of access open, providing support in the various initiatives to strengthen the open publication. Within the negotiations for state licenses, currently we have Springer and is about to close with Elsevier, also is addressing the issue of APCs to publish in OA. Some of the money from subscriptions libraries devoted to APC.
- In the field of data management, you are working to create repositories of data between consortia to enhance the dissemination of research in Spain.
- Also it is working on issues of preservation of doctoral theses within REBIUN.
- In organizational issue, it is starting work to link more informational and computer fields.

Uganda

Liz State
- Open access
- Research support

United Kingdom

Mike Berrington
- **UK EU Referendum result 'Brexit'**

- o Following the decision of the UK to leave the EU there are widely held concerns (as yet unrealised of course) that there could be a negative impact on access to European research funding and the attractiveness of the UK to overseas students. Of more immediate concern, the sudden devaluation of the £ against the $ and € has led to significant price increases for the majority of the large publisher deals, most of whom are based outside of the UK. JISC Collections in the UK are currently reviewing all non-Sterling national agreements to try and model the potential financial impact. Just about all UK universities that publicly expressed a view on the referendum expressed a strong desire to remain within the EU.

- **National content negotiations**
  - o Arrangements regarding the provision of nationally agreed electronic content in the UK is more volatile than in recent years. JISC Collections are involved in protracted negotiations with a number of key publishers over the renewal of multi-year deals and at the time of writing little progress is being made. UK universities have serious concerns over above inflation price increases, lack of transparency over business models (including OA payments), and archival rights.

- **UK Government policy changes**
  - o A number of major policy changes have impacted on UK universities over the past year. A new 'Teaching Excellence Framework' (TEF) has been agreed (to broadly match the existing 'Research Excellence Framework' (REF)) and universities are currently reviewing the extent to which they will meet or exceed the standard. Tuition fees that Universities can charge from AY17/18 will be affected by their result. With regard to research, it is proposed that the UK's seven research councils (who collectively have distributed the majority of publicly research funding) will be disbanded and brought together under a new 'quango' called UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) which will manage a new common fund.

USA

Mimi Calter & Jim Neal
- Data Management – The role of the library in managing research data continues to be an important theme. There are two different areas where I see growth.
  - o In-licensing -- Libraries are developing new methodologies for in-licensing data in support of research projects that allow materials to be more effectively leveraged across the research organization. This is particularly true for data that has restrictions on use, and must be managed securely.
  - o Data Management Plans – As funding agencies continue to demand that researchers demonstrate a data management plan going forward, libraries

and institutional repositories are taking on data as a new type of archival product.

- Linked Data – Linked data has been an area of development for several years, and continues to see growth.
- Shared Collections & Inter-institution Cooperation– Libraries are regularly banding together to manage collections, particularly print collections. Initial shared print projects often focused on journals, but monograph projects are now being seen, notably from [HathiTrust](#). Other groups are coordinating collection development efforts, and leveraging expanded ILL services to broaden their reach while managing collections budgets.
- Information policy, in particular, copyright and network neutrality
- Preservation of born digital resources
- Assessment and valuation
- Research info systems