



material handling  **logistics conference**
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Collection Development 2.0

Track 7 Session 7



Supply Chain  **Forward.**

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Abstract

- ▶ **Collection development is undergoing revolutionary changes. In the last few years, most libraries have made major changes in the way they manage collection development. This program will help clarify the new and innovative approaches some libraries have taken and why, their consequences (both intended and unintended), and what some of those thinking about these issues see on the horizon.**

Agenda

- ▶ **Why do libraries build collections?**
- ▶ **Should they continue?**
- ▶ **What are the alternatives?**
- ▶ **But... but... but...**
- ▶ **Conclusions**
- ▶ **Key Takeaways**
- ▶ **Questions**

Why Did We Collect in the Past?

- ▶ **Because printed materials were:**
 - ◆ **Physically awkward**
 - ◆ **Hard to identify and locate**
 - ◆ **Far away and difficult to move**
- ▶ **... and despite the fact that they were:**
 - ◆ **Expensive**
 - ◆ **Usable by only one person at a time**
 - ◆ **Usable only in the library, when the library is open**

Should We Still Collect?

- ▶ **Online materials are:**
 - ◆ **Not physically constrained**
 - ◆ **Much easier to identify/locate**
 - ◆ **Immediately purchasable**
- ▶ **And they can be:**
 - ◆ **Purchased on demand**
 - ◆ **Printed on demand**
 - ◆ **Used by (virtually) all, anytime, anywhere**
 - ◆ **Stored very cheaply**

We Speculate Badly

- ▶ **Pittsburgh study: 40% don't circulate in first six years**
- ▶ **Tri-college Consortium: 57% never circulate**
- ▶ **University of Utah: 50% don't circulate in first ten years**

Usage of Print is Generally Down

▶ University of Utah

- ◆ Circulation rate is down 53% since 1997
- ◆ Reshelvings down 74%

▶ Other ARLs % change since 1998

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ◆ Duke | -2 |
| ◆ Florida State | -44 |
| ◆ Georgia Tech | -25 |
| ◆ UMass | -31 |
| ◆ Yale | -28 (-60% in 2006) |
| ◆ Emory | -28 |
| ◆ SUNY Buffalo | -58 |

Bottom Line

- ▶ **The collection is a guess**
- ▶ **Guessing has always been wasteful and expensive**
- ▶ **Guessing is now much more expensive (especially with print)**
- ▶ **Point-of-need purchasing is now an option**

... so why are we still guessing?

Alternatives to the Collection

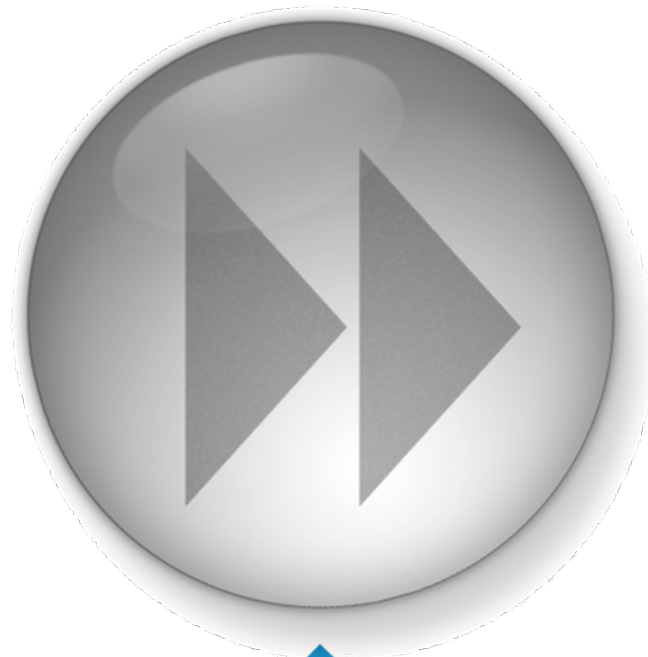
- ▶ **E-on-demand**
- ▶ **Print-on-demand**
 - ◆ **ILL as CD**
 - ◆ **In-house printing**
 - ◆ **Expedited patron requests**
- ▶ **Cooperative CD where permanent, in-case collections are necessary**

This Raises Tough Questions

- ▶ **Why do we need librarians?**
- ▶ **Do patrons really want what's best?**
- ▶ **Who will preserve and safeguard information?**
- ▶ **Why are we rewarding laziness?**

Key Takeaways

- ▶ **To the degree that the library remains a “library,” it will continue to move to the margins of our patrons’ experience**
- ▶ **Access matters more than collections do**
- ▶ **Waste is always bad**
- ▶ **Libraries are important to the degree that they meet information needs quickly, effectively, and with absolutely minimal friction**



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Questions?