Libraries, Catalogs, and the Strange New Digital Landscape

Karen Calhoun
IGeLU, Stockholm, Sweden
September 2006
Yellowstone Mud Pots
The Way We Worked

- Books
- Journals
- Newspapers
- Gov docs
- Maps
- Scores
- AV
- Dissertations

- Special collections
- Manuscripts
- Papers
- Univ records

- Journal articles
- Conference proceedings
- Etc.

- Library catalogs
- Archives
- Abstracting & Indexing services
Unanswered Questions

- Who uses the online catalog?
- Who uses library Web pages?
- For what?
- How much?
- Compared to what?
  - Compared to library e-resource discovery systems?
  - Compared to Amazoogle?
Fundamental Shift in Preferences/Landscape for Information Organization?

- Bibliographic tools vs. indexing and full text searching
- Are there generational differences?
- Differences based on discipline or profession?
- What about visual resources?
- What about digital data?
Familiarity with Search Engines vs. Online Libraries

College Students’ Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources: a Report to the OCLC Membership: [http://www.oclc.org/reports/perceptionscollege.htm](http://www.oclc.org/reports/perceptionscollege.htm)
Where Do You Begin a Search for Information on a Topic?

Starting an Information Search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Where Search Begins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Search engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Library Web site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*College Students’ Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources: a Report to the OCLC Membership: [http://www.oclc.org/reports/perceptionscollege.htm](http://www.oclc.org/reports/perceptionscollege.htm)*
Gaps in Satisfaction

Online library

Collections

Space

E-resources
Easy-to-use web site
Print or e-journals
Printed library materials
Multimedia collections
Space for study
Group space

Cornell Catalog and E-Resource Searching, First Quarter 2005

- Average/week (Q1 2005):
  - Google: 441 million
  - Library: 47 thousand

- Titles in catalog: > 4 million
- E-resources: 379 thousand
Networked E-Resources at Cornell

- Less than 10% of the collection
- More than 25% of the materials budget
- About 50% of the use
- All searches from library pages = a tiny fraction of the use of search engines
University of Minnesota Libraries: Research Needs of Humanists and Social Scientists

Library's Most Important Roles

Collector and purchaser of collections: 93%
Resource for finding and retrieving information: 80%
Repository for preservation: 65%
Developer of technology and tools: 39%
Place for research and study: 25%

Available from http://www.lib.umn.edu/about/mellon/docs.phtml
Full report and a variety of presentations, e.g.,
Karen Williams, Charleston Conference. "Lively Lunch: The Same… But Different: Varying User Behavior in the Humanities and Social Sciences"
University of Minnesota Libraries Study: More Findings

- Humanities and social sciences faculty and grad students work primarily from home
- Library space remains more important to grad students than faculty members
- Employ a wide variety of research materials, esp. *primary source materials*, also including *data* and *multimedia*
- Faculty and grad students need help organizing and managing their research materials
- Library has the opportunity to play a more proactive role
Review of Unanswered Questions

- Who uses the online catalog?
  - Faculty and graduate students (comparatively more)
  - Undergraduates (comparatively less)

- Who uses library Web pages? How much?
  - Strong preference for search engines

- For what?
  - Published materials (mostly monographs?)
  - Keen interest in primary source materials, data, images, multimedia—all outside the catalog
Review of Unanswered Questions, 2

- Compared to what?
  - Strong use of e-resource discovery systems outside the catalog
  - Strong preference for search engines
  - Some are familiar with bibliographic data/tools, many are not (and find what they want anyway?)
  - Graduate students may be the least satisfied with how libraries are serving them
The Way We Worked

Books
Journals
Newspapers
Gov docs
Maps
Scores
AV
Dissertations

Special collections
Manuscripts
Papers
Univ records

Library catalogs

Archives

Abstracting & Indexing services
The Decline of the Catalog

- Users bypassing the catalog
  - 89% of college students say they begin with search engines vs 2% with library Web pages

- One piece of a fragmented library information landscape (and hard to use!)
  - Principle of Least Effort
  - Metasearch in trouble

- Cataloging tradition unsustainable
  - “Just how much do we need to continue to spend on carefully constructed catalogs?”—Deanna Marcum, LC Associate Librarian

A New Kind of Library

- Build a vision of a new kind of library
- Be more involved with research and learning materials and systems
- Be more engaged with campus communities
- Make library collections and librarians more visible
- Move to next generation systems and services

An online social network
Information Silos

21 Library System

7 Undergraduate Colleges and Schools, 7 Graduate/Professional Colleges and Schools

“Information Network” Processes

Public Services
Tech Services
Collection Development
IT
Outreach: A BOTH/AND World
Next Generation Integrated Library System? --Modularity

- “ILSes should think in terms of linking rather than building”
- Decoupling discovery and inventory management functions
- Standards
Toward a New Library Information Space

Emerging Objectives
- Integrate access to all library resources (print, archives, digital, e-)
- Simplify digital and e-resource management (lower costs AND improve service)
- Become visible in the user’s environment (i.e., on open Web, on course pages, etc.)

Today’s Methods and Tools
- Web-accessible lists + catalogs
- Federated searching
- Reference linking (OpenURL)
- Portals
- E-resource management systems
- Digital asset management systems
The Portal Dream, Version 1: A Unifying Local System

Unified Web Interface ("Google-like")

Federated searching (metasearch)

Authentication layer

Other Libraries Catalogs
Local Library Catalog
Digital Collections
Licensed Databases
Other (e.g., DSpace)

Many diverse, separate interfaces
Extending the Local Portal Dream

Handbook of Usability Testing

Linking from Google Scholar to the Cornell online catalog.
Join the Ithaca Skeptics Meetup Group

Welcome

About
Events
Members
Photos
Message Board
Polls
Files
Invite Friends
Promote

Reincarnation, Past Lives
Have You Lived Before? University Of Metaphysical Sciences: liferetrieval.org/courses
sonya Fitzpatrick
Am Dienstag, 19. November

Skeptics require evidence to support their beliefs. Meet other skeptics and discuss any events or phenomena which could benefit from the skeptical viewpoint.

Our next Meetup is in 8 days. Get an invitation and future updates

Already a Meetup.com member? Sign in

Your name: [Enter name]
Your email: [Enter email]
Create a password: [Enter password]

I agree to the terms of service and I am 18 or older
Meetup.com will never call or share your personal information.

Featured Comments

"No fist fights broke out so that is always cool!"
— Joe.

"It’s a privilege to spend quality time with quality people."
— andrewharlin

Other Meetup topics popular with Skeptics

• Atheists
• Humanism
• Agnostic
• Druids
• Separation of Church and State
• Philosophy
Outward Integration

“Integration should be outward rather than inward, with libraries seeking to use their components in new ways”

--Interviewee for LC report on future of the catalog
From a Distance!
Longer Term Vision

- Switch users from where they find things to library-managed collections of all kinds
- Local catalog one link in a chain of services, one repository managed by the library
- More coherent and comprehensive scholarly information systems, perhaps by discipline
- Infrastructure to permit global discovery and delivery of information among open, loosely-coupled systems
- Critical mass of digitized publications and special collections online
- Many starting points on the Web leading to many types of scholarly information objects
Find It on Google,* Get It from My Library

- Open WorldCat
- RedLight Green
- Google Scholar
- Google Book Search
- Google Library Project
- Million Book Project
- Open Content Alliance
- E-books
- Print on demand

*The word "google" was first used in the 1927 Little Rascals silent film "Dog Heaven", used to refer to a having a drink of water.  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_(verb)]
Intermediate Vision

- Better library interface > better user experience “fun, fast, and focused” (e.g., Primo)
- Draw on the local catalog’s strongest suit: support for inventory control and delivery
- Shared online catalogs: begin to aggregate discovery function for books, serials, and their e-counterparts
- Larger scale collaboration on collection development/resource sharing, storage, preservation
Intermediate Vision, 2

- Start to build bigger scholarly information environments—with libraries playing a role—to aggregate more of the expanding universe of scholarly digital assets
- Metadata and outreach skills = strategic assets
Intermediate Vision, 3

- Beginning of the era of special collections
- Aggregate discovery of digital collections
- More emphasis on visual resources
Teaching, Learning, and Research, the Next Generation

Thank You!
Karen Calhoun,
Cornell University
ksc10@cornell.edu