

Acknowledgments

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Coherence and Invisibility: The Library Behind the Curtain



CS/INFO 431

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Infrastructure

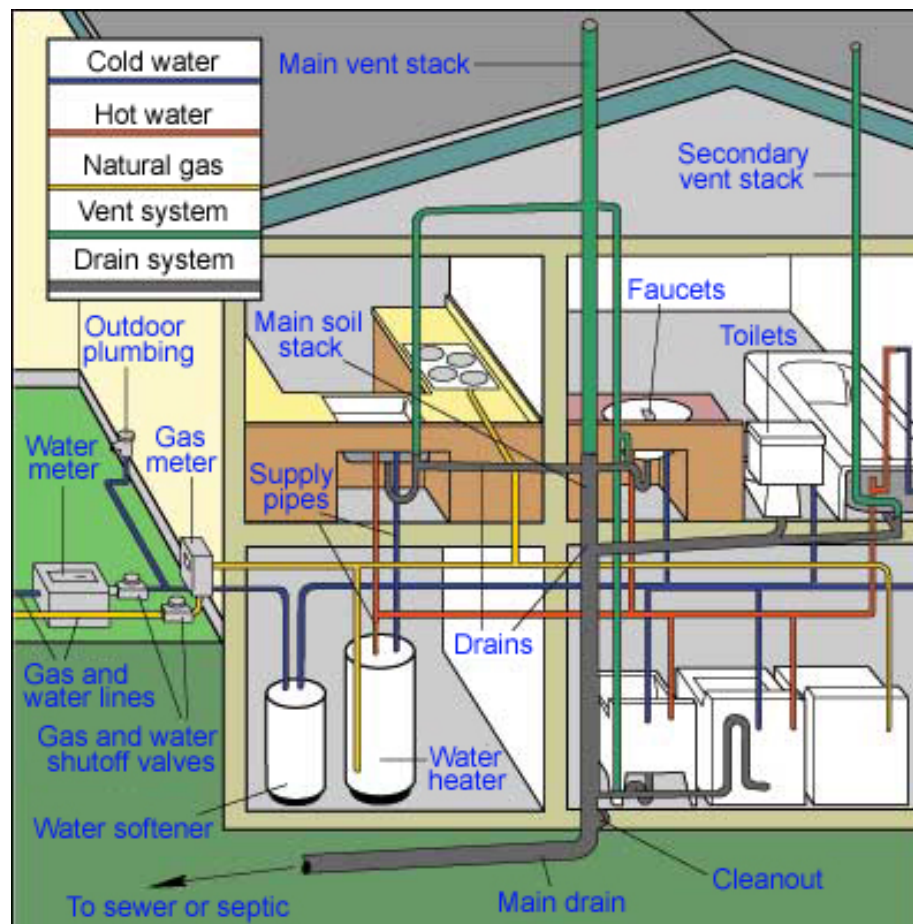
the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g., buildings, roads, and power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.

Some Interesting Historical Examples

- Railroads
- Electricity
- Telephones
- Banking

Infrastructure is like plumbing

You don't care about it when it works



Mostly you care about what it
enables



But when it breaks....



Libraries & Infrastructure

- Libraries are **integrated, coherent systems**
 - multiple services
 - defined roles (internal and external) with defined protocols among the roles
- Like good **infrastructure** they are often **invisible**
- They act as **intermediaries**, transforming data (books, maps, images, etc.) into **information**

Are these Libraries?

The logo for amazon.com, featuring the word "amazon" in a black sans-serif font with a yellow curved arrow underneath it, and ".com" in a smaller black font.

The logo for Google Scholar, featuring the word "Google" in its multi-colored font, with "Scholar" in green below it and "BETA" in small blue letters to the right.

WIKIPEDIA

The YouTube logo, featuring the word "You" in black and "Tube" in white inside a red rounded rectangle, with the tagline "Broadcast Yourself™" below it.

The logo for myspace.com, featuring a blue square with a white icon of three people and the text "myspace.com" in white, with the tagline "a place for friends" below it.

What do libraries do?

**When you are asked to look up something
relevant to your academic work...**

Where do you go?

What are your perceptions of libraries and their roles in the web context?

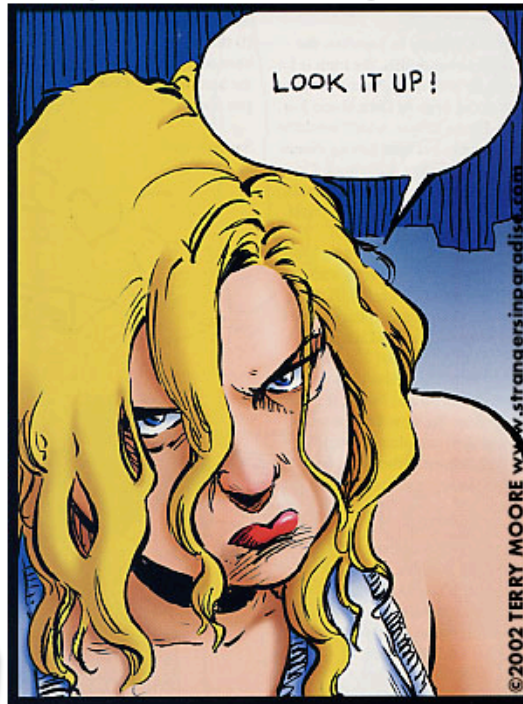


Why you should fall to your knees and worship a librarian

Ok, sure. We've all got our little preconceived notions about who librarians are and what they do.

Many people think of librarians as diminutive civil servants, scuttling about "Sssh-ing" people and stamping things. Well, think again buster.

Librarians have degrees. They go to graduate school for Information Science and become masters of data systems and human/computer interaction. Librarians can catalog anything from an onion to a dog's ear. They could catalog you.



Librarians wield unfathomable power. With a flip of the wrist they can hide your dissertation behind piles of old Field and Stream magazines. They can find data for your term paper that you never knew existed. They may even point you toward new and appropriate subject headings.

People become librarians because they know too much. Their knowledge extends beyond mere categories. They cannot be confined to disciplines. Librarians are all-knowing and all-seeing. They bring order to chaos. They bring wisdom and culture to the masses. They preserve every aspect of human knowledge. Librarians rule. And they will kick the crap out of anyone who says otherwise.

<http://librarianavengers.org/worship-2/>

Library

1. a **place** set apart to **contain** books, periodicals, and other material for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference, as a room, set of rooms, or building where books may be read or borrowed.
2. a **public body organizing and maintaining** such an establishment.
3. a **collection** of manuscripts, publications, and other materials for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference.
4. a **series of books of similar character** or alike in size, binding, etc., issued by a single publishing house.
5. Computers. a **collection of software or data** usually reflecting a specific theme or application.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=canon>

Redefining the Role

"modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. In addition to providing materials they also provide the services of specialists who are experts in matters related to finding and organizing information and interpreting information needs called librarians."

Think....

- How is a library different from:
 - Archive
 - Museum
 - Book Store

A **VERY** Brief History of Libraries

- Early libraries
 - mostly private or monastic, used by selected scholars, religious leaders
 - Library of Alexandria
- (...skipping a bit...)
- Public Libraries
 - Boston Public Library - First US public lending library (1848)
 - **"The commonwealth requires the education of the people as the safeguard of order and liberty"**
 - Note: New York Public Library
- National Libraries
 - Preeminent repository of information
 - Preservation of local culture
 - Principle of legal deposit

- Library organization was idiosyncratic until mid-19th century
 - shelves ordered by chronology of acquisition
 - **shelf list** major tool for discovery
- Libraries today are products of innovation that began ~150 years ago (Dewey).
 - notion of the **Catalog** as distinct from the **shelf list**
 - Development of bibliographic standards

Academic Research Libraries

- Integral to the missions of the academy
 - Education
 - Research
 - Preservation of scholarly heritage
- Critical link in the support of **scholarly works** (works that make no unsupported assertions)
 - Libraries as a vital link in the **integrity chain**

The Role of the Academic Library

The Library's Role

The library is an information service whose primary role is to add value (**increase access**) to information resources for a specified community.

A primary concern of the academic library is making **accessible for posterity** information that is worthy of being preserved.

Core Notion: Collection

- **Tangibility & Ownership**
 - A library collection is the sum total of library materials—books, manuscripts, (...)—that make up the holdings of a particular library. (Encyl of Library and Info Sci)
- **Commitment & Services (why adding stuff to the collection is a big decision)**
 - 'information resources for which the library invests financial resources—directly or indirectly—to manage, service or preserve on behalf of library user...' (Assoc. of Research Libraries)

Library Services: Selection

- Also traditionally known as **aquisition**
- At the heart of collection development process
- Builds the library's collection for a particular user community
- Issues of quality vs. demand

Library Services - Intermediation

- Organization
 - Traditionally **cataloging** as central activity
 - Organization of information units on different axes
- Reference
 - Professional guidance through information resources
 - Education, instructional

Library Services - Access

- Custodial activities to ensure distribution of library resources
- Democratic principles

Library Services - Preservation

- Ensure long-term access to collection
- Independent of popular trends & political whims

Library Services - Intellectual Commons

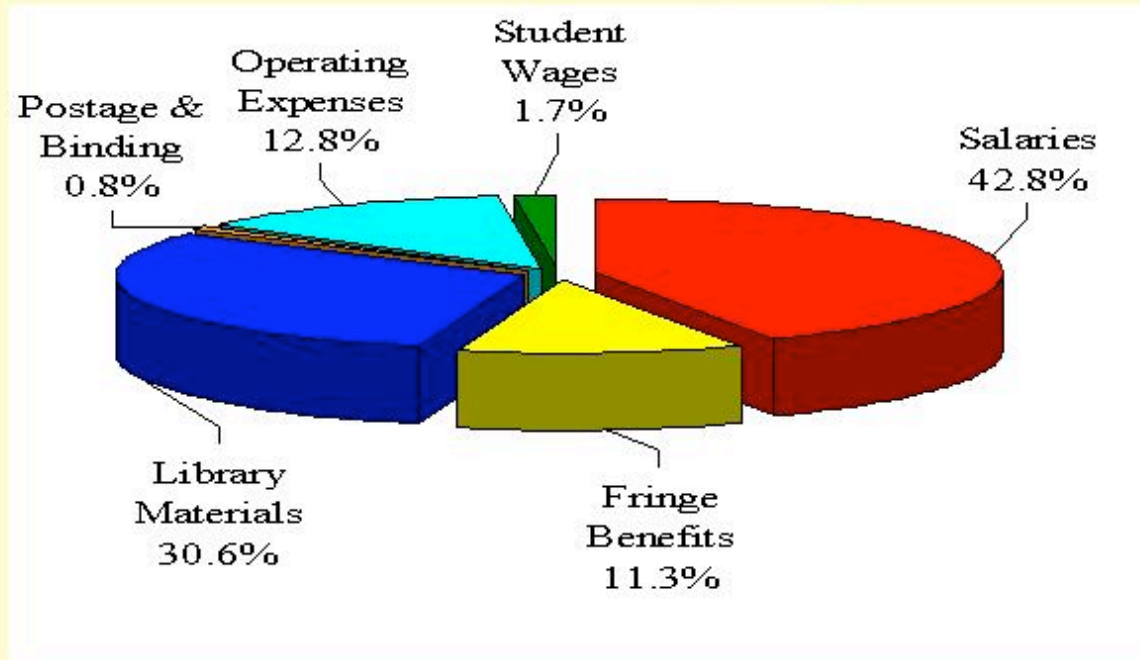
The academic library is the intellectual commons for the community where people and ideas interact in both the real and virtual environments to expand learning and facilitate the creation of new knowledge

<http://www.arl.org/training/keystone.html>

How much does this cost?

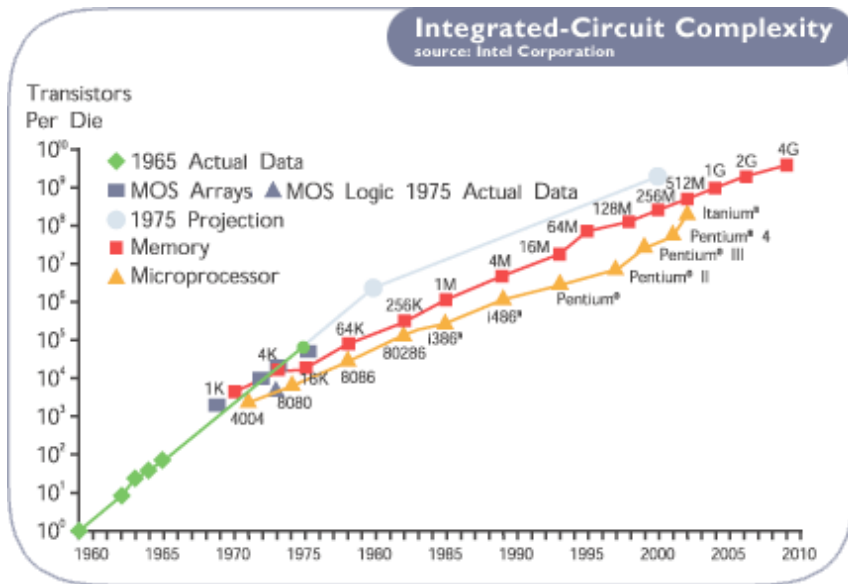
University Library Budget 2002/2003 Category of Expense

Endowed & Contract Colleges Library Budget: \$43,980,247

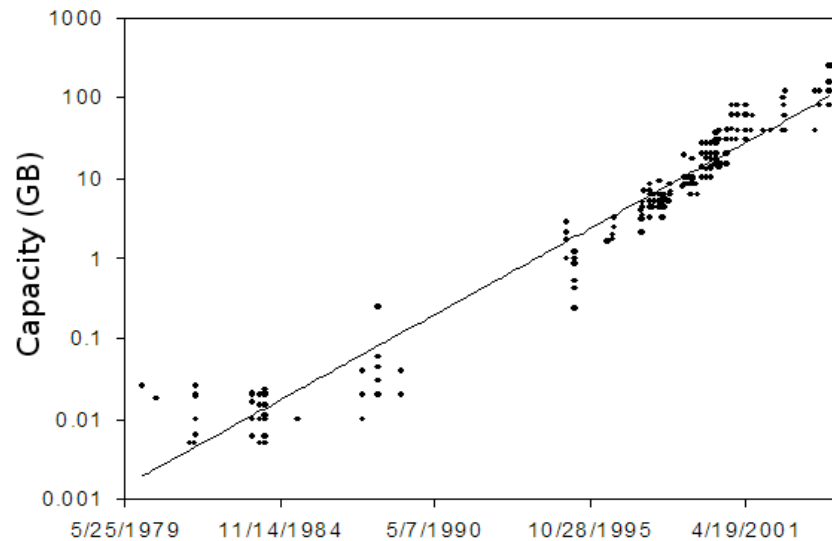


Excludes Medical College

Contrast this with...



Hard drive capacity



Control Zone



What is a library when the physical control zone is irrelevant?

- Selection?
- Intermediation?
- Access?
- Preservation?

What is the future of libraries?

- Preservation
- Data
- Information management

Library Social Ethic

Library Ideology (Traditional)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

Library Bill of Rights (1949)

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves.

Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

Library Ideology (Traditional)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

-Library Bill of Rights (1949)

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting **all points of view** on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. **Libraries should challenge censorship** in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

Library Ideology (Traditional)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

-Library Bill of Rights (1949)

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

Library Ideology (Traditional)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

-Library Bill of Rights (1949)

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

Are these Libraries?

amazon.com.



Google Scholar BETA

WIKIPEDIA

You Tube
Broadcast Yourself™

myspace.com®
a place for friends