Collection Development In the Age of Google

(With appreciation to the Janus Conference and the Late Ross Atkinson)

Mary Munroe

November 3, 2006

Key Challenges from the Janus Conference

Key Challenges for Collection Development		
	Vertical	**Horizontal**
Hybridity	Recon	Procon
Notification	Core definition	Publisher relations
Configuration	Archiving	Alternate channels of scholarly communication

Hybridity

- Hybridity is the increasing tendency of libraries to purchase and maintain material in more than one format, thereby duplicating the source.

The Challenge of Hybridity

- Maintaining print and electronic collections is impossible, fiscally and managerially.
- We will need to discuss and coordinate conversion of present print sources to digital, beyond Google print.
- We will also need to accelerate the transition to digital publishing, particularly in the humanities.

Notification Sources

- Ross Atkinson defined notification sources as information objects produced by scholars "in order to notify (primarily) other scholars of those conclusions."

The Challenge of Notification

- We must collectively define what titles make up the core of each subject area.
- We must accept that there is necessary duplication of this small core.
- We must then work cooperatively to divide up responsibility for the selection of advanced materials beyond the core, the same task that cooperative collection development has always had.

The Challenge of Publisher Relations

- We have to negotiate with publishers for group purchases of core materials.
- We have to work with publishers to allow group access to materials collected by other libraries.
- The Janus Conference urged us to "find out what is legal and what is not."

The Challenge of Configuration

- The storage and exchange of information objects that libraries own.

Archiving

- Print Archiving
  - Conversion will not be complete for several years
  - Must be done cooperatively, particularly for small and medium-sized libraries
- Digital Archiving
  - Maintaining access through alternative sources – LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, Portico
  - Reformatting as necessary

Alternative Channels of Scholarly Communication

- Open Access
- Open Source
- Institutional Repositories
- Digital Archives
- Other Alternatives

Barriers to Success

- Autonomy
- Reliance on size as a measure of quality
- Resistance to change
- Local pressures
- Need to re-engineer budgetary practices
- Community and institutional support