Publisher's Profile

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Is there an erroneous perception that the library will always have the information, that valuable information will continue to be collected and presented in a viable format, that somehow the downward spiral of the library’s collection will end? Does society, do governments and corporations realize the risks and consequences here? ["... some scientists are deeply disturbed by this trend. They say lack of jobs, and declining national support of science when the puzzles yet to be solved are more and more difficult, have begun to sap the vigor of American research." Nobel Prize (1986)-winning chemist, Prof. Dudley Herschbeck of Harvard, comments, "The government providers of science funding no longer seem supportive of free, basic research and wild ideas that can lead to great science and wonderful applications." (We might ask, Isn’t basic research one of the "engines" that drives the U.S. economy? What happens when promising U.S. or Canadian scientists are not able to go forward with their careers/research?) See The New York Times, February 20, 1994, "End of Cold War Clouds Research as Openings in Science Dwindle," by Malcolm W. Browne, p.1.]

At any rate, a reality check indicates that the STM community needs to issue a wake up call for society, governments, corporations, students, administrations, or we may discover the day (not too far in the future) when the North American STM community will have eroded to a mediocre image of its once first-rate achievements. This is not a happy thought to pass along to our children and grandchildren. ☞