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People Profile: Rich Rosy

Editor

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needs. At Texas we’ve had a wide-open patron driven pay-per-view model for over 18 months, and so far, our spending has consistently met our projections. But a slight miscalculation could result in invoices with nasty surprises and theoretically even force the library to shut off the information spigot in the middle of the semester just when wide open access is needed the most. In other words, it’s probably best to take a controlled approach, such as with a portfolio-based collection and budgeting model, in which a portion of the budget is allocated to pay-per-view, a portion to print-on-demand, a portion to traditional just-in-case purchases, etc. Of course, in an ideal world the key to making this type of model work would be to base decisions on actual user information seeking behavior patterns, instead of going along with the usual messiness of campus politics and egos, but for now a portfolio approach is probably best.

Providing discovery mechanisms in a networked world in which library content changes second-by-second 24 hours a day, cannot be handled by a stand-alone OPAC even if every library had 1,000 catalogers and unlimited server capacity. It’s questionable whether we even want a collection of shelved objects within four walls to be called a “library” in today’s world. We may eventually decide to use a new term for such collections, something along the lines of a “disconnected” or “orphaned” library.” In any case a large centralized knowledge-base containing records for hundreds of millions of items is going to be essential for a functioning networked library. Whether this knowledge base is going to be Worldcat Local, Google, or a next-generation commercial product is difficult to say, but when Google Books already contains the full-text of seven million volumes, and articles are produced by the tens of thousands a day, library discovery efforts are going to have to improve or we risk being left in the ditch by the side of the road.

RR: First of all, libraries must acknowledge the need for change. Once they embrace this changing landscape they can begin to better understand how it affects libraries. There is more information available and in more formats than ever before. The demand for content is also higher. At the same time, libraries are confronted with the reality of shrinking budgets. When evaluating new options, we must first ask the question: “How does this fit into my library?” They should also bear in mind that, over time, there will be more and more information available in various forms of e-content such as journals, books and other library material, including materials made available by Google.

ATG: How about audio books and mobile devices? As was predicted at the Charleston Conference many years ago, will we be tied to our iPhones, Blackberries, and the like for all our content in the future?

DD: I don’t own a cell phone or any other mobile thought interruption device because they interfere with my ability to achieve any semblance of personal coherent mental activity. But, I realize others are more cognitively nimble and view these devices as brain extensions, kind of like having a second brain in the clouds, etc., including those that are seldom used, retaining most of the world’s books, articles, images, etc., including those that are seldom used — then libraries are going to be a necessary part of this infrastructure. Publishers will be anxious to insure that any items used thousands of times a day remain available, but it will take library interests, resources, infrastructure, and

Library Digitization: Top Trends to Watch

1) Continued growth in the adoption and use of eBooks through innovative patron-driven business and delivery models to help libraries control costs while providing revenue for publishers.

2) Multi-format access to enable expanded delivery of eBooks and audio books to mobile devices, Windows and Mac-based devices.

3) Simplified user-access to a library’s digital collection with search-and-discover tools, linking cross-publisher content, archiving and integration with library systems

4) Alignment of digital and print-on-demand solutions.