

— Aligning Trajectories —
Academic Libraries & Acquisitions in
the Coming Decade

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The Big Picture :: *The Future, Now Available*



“ ..Traditional functions will be reengineered, eliminated, outsourced, & combined in new ways. Libraries will be aggregators, publishers, teachers, research & development agencies, entrepreneurs, & information policy advocates.”

— *James Neal* , University Librarian, Columbia University

Challenges for Academic Libraries

- Changes to flows for research, learning, & teaching
- Financial pressures (internal & external) & competition
- Shifting programmatic directions within the library itself

Research, Learning, & Teaching :: New Workflows

- Shifting preferences for discovery & access
 - Data, data, & more data
 - New channels for communicating processes, findings, finished research
 - Use of data analytics to measure student progress & outcomes
 - Use of active learning methods, online learning tools and platforms
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New Workflows :: Opportunities

- Integrating discovery & access more fully into users' own work processes & environments
- Expanding digital access
- Finding ways to provide access to new forms of scholarly communication
- Investigating & advocating for more-affordable textbook alternatives
- Exploring ways to quantify impact of library resource purchases on learning

Finances & Competition :: Pressures

- Public higher-education adjusting to steep recession cuts; tuition rates climbing
- Library funding not keeping pace with costs
- Competition from startup information & education providers

Finances & Competition :: Opportunities

- Radical collaboration
- Open-access publishing & copyright reform
- Innovation & entrepreneurial ventures
- Ongoing efficiency measures

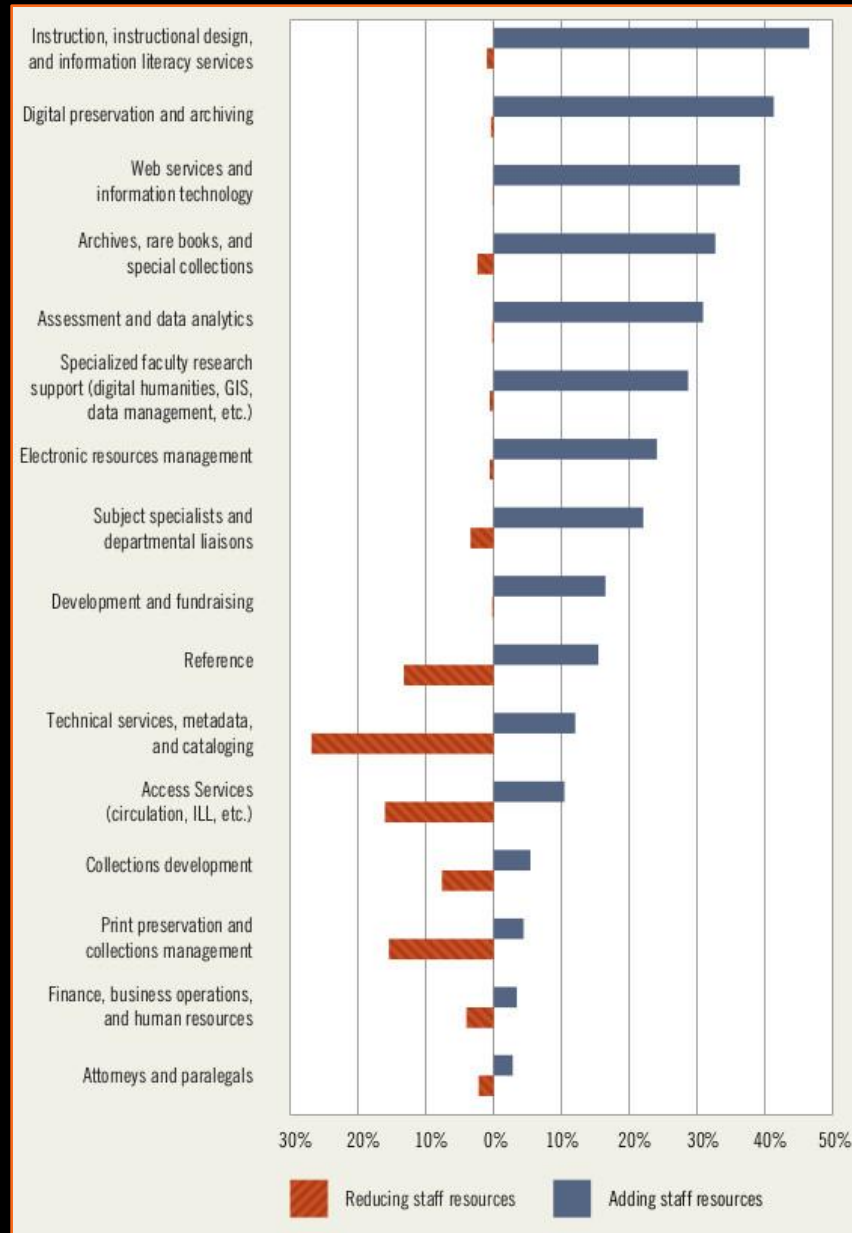
Library Priorities :: Shifts

- Away from a focus on comprehensive, locally-stored print collections
- Toward facilitating engagement, information literacy, learning spaces, and electronic access

5- Year Allocation Forecasts

Academic librarian respondents answer:

Will you add or reduce resources to the following areas in the next 5 years?



Source:
Ithaka S & R 2013 Library Survey

Library Priorities :: Opportunities

- Opportunities for cross-unit collaborations & reconfigurations to support new programs
- Opportunities to cultivate new areas of expertise

Acquisitions :: The Coming Decade

- Stability in core acquisitions processes
 - Expansion of inter-institutional collaboration
 - Emergence of processes for new open-access & digital formats
 - User-focused strategic planning, intra-library collaboration, & retraining to keep unit & library aligned with patron trends
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For Further Exploration

- **ACRL** :: Environmental Scan 2013
- **Ithaka S & R** :: US Library Survey 2013
- **Lorcan Dempsey** :: Three Challenges: Engaging, Rightscaling & Innovating

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