

***The "me"-generation and
information overload - are
libraries catering to the
needs of up and coming
information users?***

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To start off with...

- “Me”-generation
- Information – problems
 - Information overload
 - Time
- Libraries – problem
 - Keeping up

Student perspective

"I don't use the library. I hate the library. Who has time to read and search in books when you electronically can search PDF's and the internet? I don't think the library provides much of a service at all; except for keeping stuff on reserve that I can't access online. Libraries are cool when you have time to browse - not when you are pressed by deadlines."

Continued

- *"I disagree. I think the changes in technology are pointing out just how ineffective and inefficient the library really is."*
- *"My real problem with the library is that whenever I do want a book, it is already out and I have to wait months to get hold of a copy (like Country of my Skull). The worthwhile stuff are so highly demanded that it is completely undersupplied. Either that or it is on reserve and you can't lend the thing."*

Student perspective 2

"Much of the literature (except for subject journals) are twenty to thirty years old and close to redundant in subject areas such as economics that continuously need modern data and analysis for modern problems. The ability to gather knowledge from international electronic networks is in itself a marketable skill."

Student perspective 3

- *"I think the library is in a pickle. It is going to be exceedingly difficult to maintain a balance between printed books and electronic resources. In my research I focus almost exclusively on electronic sources (except maybe in something like Philosophy). In subjects like Political Science it is necessary that I have access to journals that are up to date. In other subjects (such as Socio-informatics) books and printed publications would have been excellent sources, but our library has no recent publications in these areas."*

Student perspective 4

- *"For me the best thing is that I don't have to spend hours in the library (even though I sometimes have the need to do so), but I can reserve, view and "download" what I need, on my own time and with my coffee in hand, and then just hop into the library every now and then to get the things that I reserved or walk straight to the shelf and know what I am looking for is actually there."*

Getting the stuff

- Help! It's all becoming too much for me...
- I don't know how?
- But can't I just Google it?
- Databases? Never really seen one of those – you get them on computers?

Whereto now?

- Nimble and agile
- Pro-active
- Anyone can Google
- Access, rather than possess
- Meta-search
- Information gather for users
- Remote access
- But more physical computer access too

Thank you