The changing higher education environment: some implications for university libraries

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International Trends

Globalisation

- Internationalisation
- Globalisation
- The flow of technology, economic activity, knowledge, people, values, ideas … across borders
- The contemporary world order

Globalisation 2

- Integration of the world
- Global …
  - Cultural values
  - Products
  - Financial markets
  - Labour markets
  - Language

The Knowledge Society

- ICT revolution and its impact on the production, dissemination and use of knowledge
- Internet
- Almost infinite amounts of knowledge available
- Knowledge knows no frontiers
- GATS – borderless education

New Ways of Teaching

- Resource-rich environment
- Use of technologies
  - Open and distance learning
  - Web-based learning
  - Virtual universities
- Lecture time no longer devoted to transferring information

Knowledge Production: Research

- Mode 1 – discipline based knowledge production in universities
- Mode 2 – Interdisciplinary knowledge production in teams, often outside of HE
- Increasing importance of applied research - impact on fundamental disciplines

Knowledge management

- A continuum of
  - Electronic Academic Information Services, traditional library, telematic education (WebCT), traditional classroom
  - Knowledge management (through knowledge objects/granules)
- Broad band / wide pipe IT facilities
- Cooperation between institutions, e.g. academic libraries

Cooperation and Standardisation

- Networking
  - Institutions – cooperation agreements; e.g. Universitas 21in Australia
  - COSALC, GAELIC
- Bologna process in Europe
- International norms and evaluation
- League tables

Output orientated learning

- Move from supplier driven to demand driven programmes
- Increasing importance of:
  - Application of learning
  - Employability of graduates
- Performance related - productivity
- Outcomes based approach

Competition in the provision of Higher Education

- Borderless education – foreign markets
- Commercialisation and Managerialsm
- Revision of funding regimes by governments
  - who demand more control for less subsidies
  - and ‘accountability’ to society
- International league tables – Shanghai; Times Higher Education Supplement

Ethical considerations

- Importance of ethics in evaluating science, particularly in the biological sciences, e.g.
  - Cloning
  - Stem cell research from embryos created by in vitrio fertilisation
  - Plagiarism (in e-environment)
  - Fraudulent degrees

Funding and accountability

- Democratisation of HE and pressures on public funding
  - Student (top up) fees
  - ‘Third stream’ income
  - Spin-off companies to exploit Intellectual Property
- Emphasis on accountability
  - External quality control
  - Assessment of outputs – Research Assessment Exercise

South African Higher Education

Transformation

- Increased access to HE, and higher participation rates of the relevant cohorts
- Equity; both for students and for staff
- Education that meets the needs of the economy
- Efficiency in the delivery of education, including improved success and graduation rates
- Research that complies with international norms
- The development of inclusive institutional cultures

Eliminating the Apartheid landscape

- National Plan on Higher Education
- Mergers of institutions (including colleges)
- 36 institutions become 22
  - Universities
  - Comprehensives
  - Univ's of Technology
- Mergers consume enormous energy
- Elevation of technikons to universities

Governance

- Higher Education Act & elimination of separate university acts
- Establishment of the Council on HE (CHE)
- Intensified state ‘steering’
  - Autonomy reduced
- Increased ‘accountability’ to society
- King recommendations

Funding

- Main state steering mechanism
- New mechanism = mixture of redress, carrots, and sticks; a system of handicaps
- Benefits the weaker institutions
- Danger of creating uniform mediocrity
- Minister has prerogative to change parameters

  therefore complicates planning

Growth and Funding

- State's MTEF projections only provide for about 2% growth in total student enrolments
- Actual growth higher; therefore, *per capita* funding will decrease
- DoE solution: cap enrolment growth, but
- No adequate Human Resource Planning, e.g.
  - Impact of HIV-AIDS?

Programme & Qualification Mix

- PQM = second steering mechanism
- Only funding for approved programmes
- Regional programme review process
  - uncertainty about process
- Complexity underestimated
- Role of regional bodies uncertain

Distance Education in the new landscape

- DE encouraged in 90's to deal with massification
- Massification did not occur; therefore attempts to restrict DE in 'contact' institutions
- Contradicts international trends; definitions impossible; telematic education

SAQA and the NQF

- SAQA = statutory authority for administering the NQF
- Long debate on the nature of NQF – levels and tracks (e.g. general, vocational, trade/occupational/ professional) – "New Academic Policy"
- Tussle between DoE and DoL (Education vs Training)
- Latest document = HE Qualifications Framework, released by the DoE

HE Quality Committee (HEQC)

- HEQC = committee of the CHE
- Deemed to be the ETQA of SAQA
- All institutions to be audited on rotational basis
  - Fitness of purpose (meeting national goals)
  - Fitness for purpose (efficient application of mission)
- Professional councils - in some faculties

Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC)

- Existing Matric being phased out
- To be replaced by the FETC
  - No standard/higher grades
  - Either Maths or Maths Literacy compulsory
- Suitable for admitting students? Science faculties?
- Universities to institute own process? System of benchmarking?

National HE Information and Applications Service (NHEIAS)

- Envisaged that all first-time entering students will apply to the NHEIAS
- Two possibilities:-
  - NHEIAS will administer criteria supplied by the institutions, OR
  - NHEIAS will allocate students in terms of its own criteria?
- Administrative bottleneck?
- Still to be implemented?

Research and Innovation

- HE institutions
- Research Councils
- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- THRIP
- National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI)
- Government Departments e.g. of Science and Technology
- Greater ‘responsiveness’, but ‘development grants’ to under-performing HE institutions

Efficiency of the HE Sector

- Throughput in HE institutions poor
  - Graduation rates below the norm,
  - High dropout rates
  - “non-marketable education”
- Poor inputs from secondary school system
- Need for “foundation programmes”

Future academics/research

- Current academics dominated by white men older than fifty
- Retention of young (black) academics difficult
- Remuneration inadequate
- Potential loss of research capacity
- Aging research equipment – national expenditure on research infrastructure inadequate

Future landscape

- Merger of SAUVCA and CTP into new HigherEducation:SA (HESA)
- Nevertheless, competitive relationships
- Development of southern African association
  - SARUA

National Student Financial Aid

- NSFAS
- Students currently poor, but will be the future rich
- Timing mismatch between capital investment and income flows
- NSFAS loans bridge the gap
  - Designed to provide incentives to pass
- More funding needed

Presidential Committee

- President has chaired a committee of ministers to investigate problems in HE
- Importance of HE in achieving society's goals, e.g. socio-political, economic
- 1st Paper: SA HE system is inefficient, not dealing with the important issues, e.g.
  - UN Millennium Development Goals, NEPAD
- therefore additional funding not warranted

Some implications for university libraries

Importance of academic libraries

- University libraries central to knowledge management
- Shift from storing to managing information
  - Academic information services
  - E-learning
  - E-research
- Link between (academic) computing and HE core functions – overlaps and synergies

Resource constraints

- Pressure on funding while demands are changing and increasing
  - Mushrooming information
  - New e-systems
  - Access for increasing student numbers
- Therefore collaboration and sharing necessary, despite competition: e.g. SASLI

Digitisation

- E-journals
- Open access movement
- Google Print Project with Oxford, Harvard, Stanford, Michigan, New York Public Lib.
- E-research
  - Handling large data sets
  - Digital curation of scientific data
- Digitising and disseminating own research (e.g. PhD theses.
- Virtual libraries (AVLIN in Africa)

Ethical problems in a digital age

- Copy right protection
- Plagiarism
- Protection of the integrity of data collections
- Control of the quality of data available

Libraries and HE competition

- As collaboration is increasing, so is HE competition
- International league tables dominated by US; other countries differentiating their HE systems, e.g. Germany
- Knowledge use and creation is central to this process, therefore
- university libraries have a pivotal role

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