LIBRARY-CONNECT MALAYSIA
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Redefining the Roles of Librarians

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OUTLINE

• Lately
• Librarians
• Redefining roles
• Why?
• How?
• New roles?
• Conclusion
LATELY

- 8\textsuperscript{th} AUNILO Meeting in Singapore - June
- 4\textsuperscript{th} ICOL in Kota Bharu - June
- Facebook – Sembang Pustakawan - July
- Berita Harian – 9\textsuperscript{th} July 2011 - July
  – Questions the role of librarians
LIBRARIANS

• Librarianship – involved with selecting, acquiring, organising, disseminating and provide access to information related to a specific user need
REDEFINING ROLES

• Redefining roles – literature available from late 1990s

• Leyden (1997) – “As a society, we are building the electronic digital library of the future. Librarians need to play a much more prominent role now in the development, because things are happening quickly, and they will happen without them”.
WHY?

• ICT & Internet
  – changed information landscape
  – basis of information service provision today
  – mode of delivery for e-learning

• Users
  – have more information access options
  – perceived libraries as something they use at the end or in the middle of their information search
  – user centred
  – user-related activities
• Library
  – primary focus of the library is now the users NOT the collection
  – portal to information highway – easy to navigate information architecture = homepages & federated searching
  – change in scholarly communication – libraries from ownership to anywhere, anytime access to information
  – consortia participation
  – no longer primary information provider to a community – search engines
• University’s direction and needs
• Education system – teaching to learning
• Change in mode of scholarly publishing
• Others?
HOW?

• E-resources and the new models of education - greater need for reference and instruction

• Students lack technical & research skills - need expertise of librarian to apply search techniques – need help to navigate layers of the e-resources, evaluate & select

• Librarians – trained and skilled to deliver services
• Information commons – space for interactive and intellectual work – one stop shopping for library services to support learning

• Shill and Tonner (2004) – “… an integrated library facility designed to provide research and study space, teach students information skills, expose students to recorded knowledge in both print and electronic formats, and make information experts readily accessible in one place”
NEW ROLES?

• Bennet (2003) – “… academic libraries should not be seen as a traditional storage facility for books, or simply as a technology centre, but instead the library should focus on the process of learning that takes place within its space, bringing resources, learners, and experts into easy proximity to facilitate collaborative learning”.

• Freeman (2005) – “… libraries as learning laboratories that accommodate learning in a variety of formats”.

• Require skills related to
  – Teaching / Facilitating / Guiding
  – Problem solving
  – Communication
  – Language
  – Technical
A Timeline of Information History

This timeline presents significant events and developments in the innovation and management of information and documents from cave paintings (ca 30,000 BC) to the present. Only non-electronic innovations and developments are included (that is, digital and electronic communications are excluded).

Use: To move timeline, drag top or bottom (fast) bands. Click any entry to get more info in a popup bubble.
A timeline of information history ~

Michael K. Bergman

- ca 320 BC – bibliography
- ca 280 BC – Royal Library of Alexandria - 0.5 to 1 million scrolls
- ca 270 BC – classification format = catalogue
- ca 800 – library catalogue
- 1595 – printed library catalogue
- 1598 – public lending library
- 1789 – card catalogue
- 1876 – Dewey
- 1876 – Dewey
- 1897 – LC
- 1904 – UDC
- 1969 – Internet
- 1990 – search engine
- 1991 – WWW
- 2001 - Wikipedia

- we existed for a long time
- have been through numerous inventions, innovations, ideas and others
- will continue existing but must be willing to change
CONCLUSION

• Role of libraries and librarians have changed, is changing and will continue to change.
• We have evolved through time and will keep evolving.
• We have responded well to change.
• We should be able to respond to changes brought about by developments in ICT.
"But Goethe tells us in his greatest poem that Faust lost the liberty of his soul when he said to the passing moment: "Stay, thou art so fair." And our liberty, too, is endangered if we pause for the passing moment, if we rest on our achievements, if we resist the pace of progress. For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.

~ John F. Kennedy, Assembly Hall, Paulskirche, Frankfurt, 25 June 1963
REFERENCES


Thank You