Changing library spaces: finding a place for print

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The space problem

• Emerging demands for new space uses = reduced space for print storage
• Poor prospects for expansion of existing buildings
• Libraries that are ‘full’
The response . . . so far

- Increased reliance on independent off-site storage
- Permanent disposal of low use print material
- Emergence of the ‘steady-state’ library as the norm
UNSW is in a position where we must remove a significant number of volumes periodically to make room for new acquisitions as well as allowing for changing services which require different use of existing space. Consequently, UNSW is a steady state library, with the intake of new material offset by the relegation or disposal of corresponding quantities of existing holdings.
With little chance of major extensions to the Hawthorn campus library, Swinburne has been, and will continue to be, a steady-state library with a focus on access rather than maintenance of a print archive.
The steady state library - Monash

As a library serving a research institution all items in the collection may have some value to our clients in the future and this can be difficult to anticipate. . . . (However) the library must confront the problem of accommodating tens of thousands of extra volumes acquired each year.
The steady state library - QU

- The Library adds material to its collection on the basis that this material is intended to be kept permanently. It also recognises that to maximise access, wherever possible, its collections should be on open access. However, there is a finite amount of space... 66,000 volumes are added to the collections each year. A similar amount of material must therefore be relocated to alternative storage to retain a net balance.
Non-serial additions to & withdrawals from CAUL libraries, 1996-2006
Net non-serial additions to CAUL libraries, 1996-2006
The remote storage problem

Independent off-site storage (as currently practiced):

- perpetuates duplication of storage and associated costs,
- provides poor preservation standards,
- promotes inefficiencies in discovery and delivery.
The disposal problem

Disposal (as currently practiced):

• risks the removal of last copies,
• fails to guarantee the permanent retention of copies remaining in the system.
The solution

A national print repository based on ceded ownership to:

• minimise duplicated storage and associated costs,
• provide certain retention of n copies,
• optimise efficiencies for digital discovery and delivery,
• maximise research efficiency.
What is a repository?

- Collaborative storage facility
- Environmental conditions for secure long-term preservation
- Low-use (print) research materials
- Efficient discovery, access & delivery services
- Economies of scale
North America

- At least 68 storage facilities
- 79% operated by individual institutions
- Some shared by multiple libraries
- 21% (14) cooperative storage facilities
- Few shared facilities have jointly-owned collections

Europe

• National Repository Library of Finland - 1989
• Created to provide a cost-effective solution for library storage
• Material & ownership transferred from other Finnish libraries
• Similar repositories in Norway & France
United Kingdom

• Collaborative Academic Store for Scotland (CASS) – 2004
• UK Research Reserve – based on the collections of the British Library
• In conjunction with the Consortium of Research Libraries (CURL) & the Research Information Network (RIN)
Australia ... so far

• URRSA (University Research Repository South Australia)
  ➢ Provides secure, high-density storage for lesser-used material from the 3 South Australian University libraries

• National Library of Australia & several state libraries have high-density storage facilities

• Other universities exploring options
CARM

- CARM (CAVAL Archival & Research Materials) Centre opened 4th February 1997
- Custom-designed high-capacity, high-density storage
- 11 years of experience
CARM1

- Environmentally-controlled, secure, high-density storage of low-usage materials
- Managed by CAVAL for members
- Incorporates a shared last-copy collection & library-owned collections
- Rental income when possible e.g. records storage, art collections …even dental equipment
CARM Service Model

- Automated inter-lending system receives & responds to requests
- Delivers ‘digital to desktop’ wherever possible
- Free to members
- Non-members pay recommended Australian standard ILL charges
• Feasibility Study in late 2006
• Showed un-met demand for storage space over at least next 10 years
• Mix of shared collection, individual library storage & records storage
• Progressed to strategic design phase in 2007
• Funding model developed
Options analysis

- CARM2 is a competitive option
- A lower capital outlay compared to individual institutional facilities
  - provides the qualitative needs for a user of a low-use storage facility
  - institutional set-up & operational costs minimised.
Other advantages

• Maximise the use of on-campus space
• Reduce cost of servicing & maintaining storage collections
• Retention of the physical book as artefact
• Opportunities for collaborative approaches to collection management & preservation
Issues

- Ownership – to cede or not to cede
- De-duplication
- Number of copies to be retained
- “live, active, accessible” vs “dark store”
- Re-assuring academics & researchers that access is not dependent on location
- De-selection processes within the contributing libraries
- Developing cost-efficient & effective processing procedures
‘Digital natives’

- Expectation of interactive & networked spaces for library users
- Less in-library space for collections
- Access to, rather than ownership of, legacy print collections
- Seamless digital discovery & delivery of print materials
What now?

- Print repositories a compelling option for library space management
- Achieve optimum benefit when scaled
- National repository service for Australia?
Questions?