

The Catalog's Future

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ACRL Delaware Valley Chapter

“The Future of the Catalog: Deconstruction or Reinvention?”

November 3, 2006

Deconstruction AND Reinvention



Phoenix detail
from Aberdeen
Bestiary
(public domain)



“Within the next five years ...

... a large number of libraries will no longer have local OPACs. Instead, we will have entered a new age of data consolidation (either shared catalogs or catalogs that are integrated into discovery tools), both of our catalogs and our collections.”

Provocative Statement #5,

<http://www.taigaforum.org/docs/ProvocativeStatements.pdf>

The Way We Worked

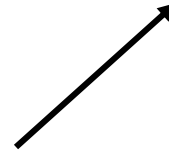
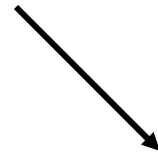
Books
Journals
Newspapers
Gov docs
Maps
Scores
AV
Dissertations



Special
collections
Manuscripts
Papers
Univ records



Journal
articles
Conference
proceedings
Etc.



“Instead of being a hoarder of containers, the library must become the facilitator of retrieval and dissemination.”—William Wulf, 2003

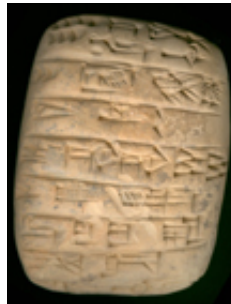
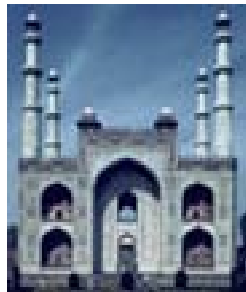


Digital media

FACULTY GRANTS
for digital library collections
advancing e-scholarship



Cornell University
Library



arXiv.org

Open access to 391,238 e-prints in
Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science
and Quantitative Biology

Revolutionizing Science and Engineering through Cyber-infrastructure
Report of the National Science Foundation Blue-Ribbon Advisory Panel on Cyberinfrastructure

January 2003

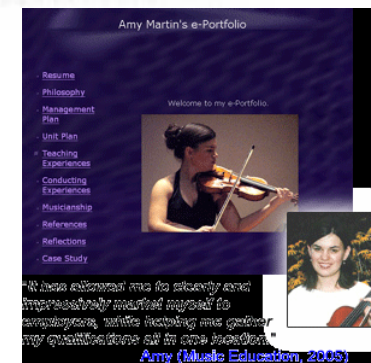


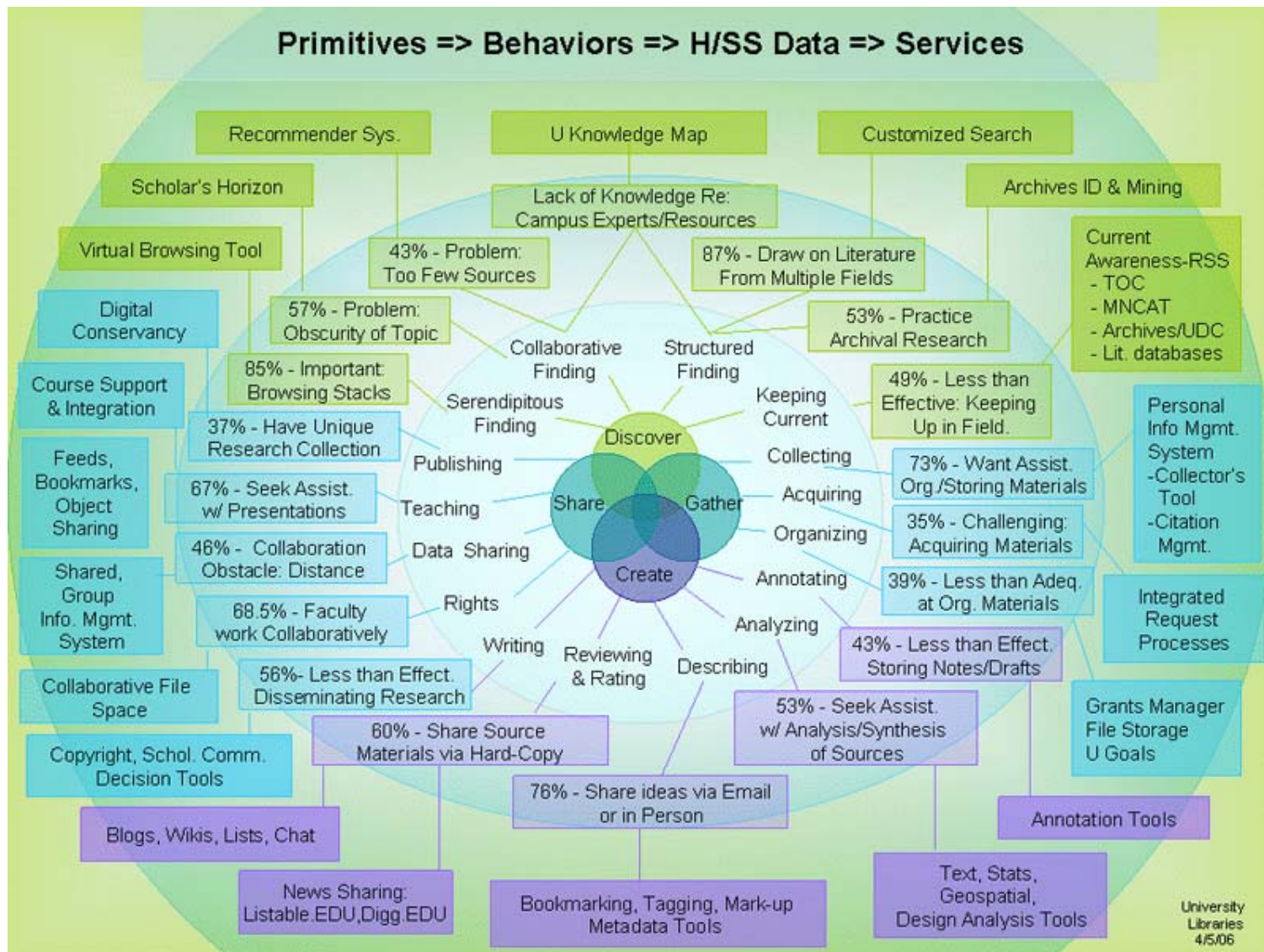
VIVO
virtual life sciences library

Blakeley, Daniel H.

[Cornell Center for Materials Research Facility Staff page](#)

Penn State
e portfolio

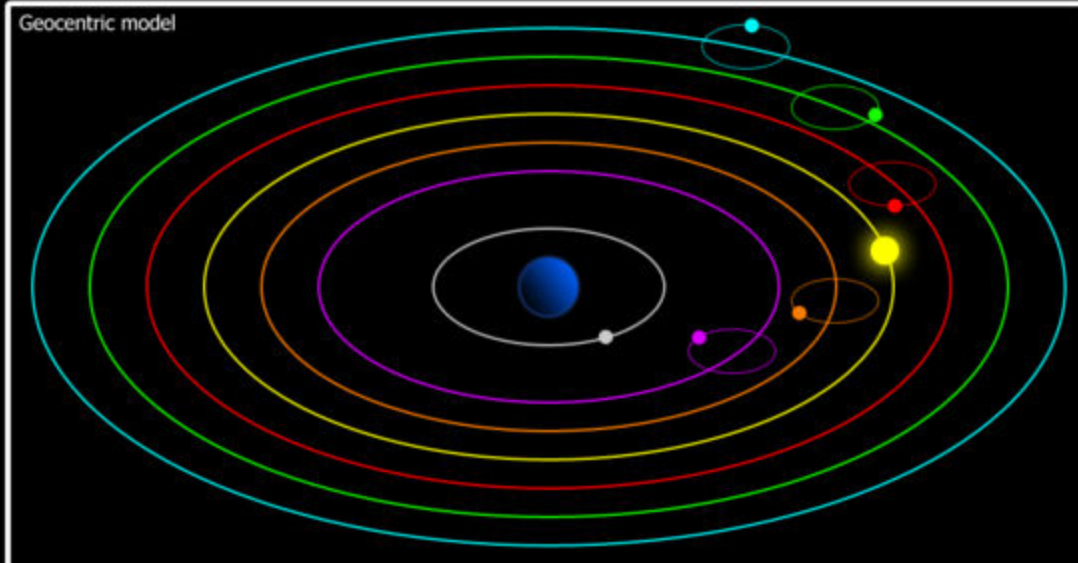




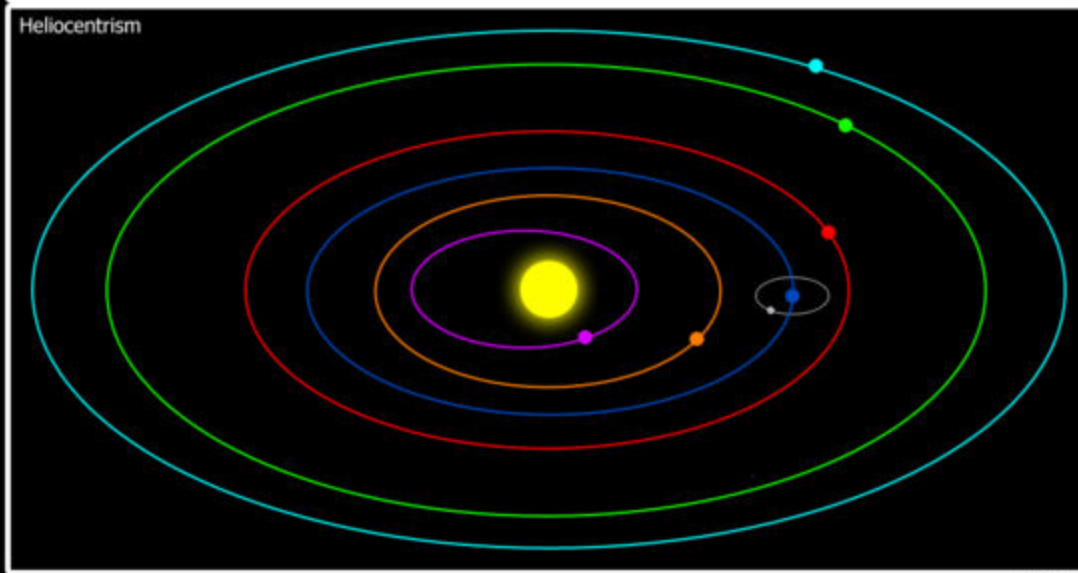
A multidimensional framework for academic support: a final report submitted to the Mellon Foundation from the University of Minnesota Libraries, June 2006, p. 47.

<http://www.lib.umn.edu/about/mellon/docs.phtml>

Earth
Moon
Mercury
Venus
Sun
Mars
Jupiter
Saturn



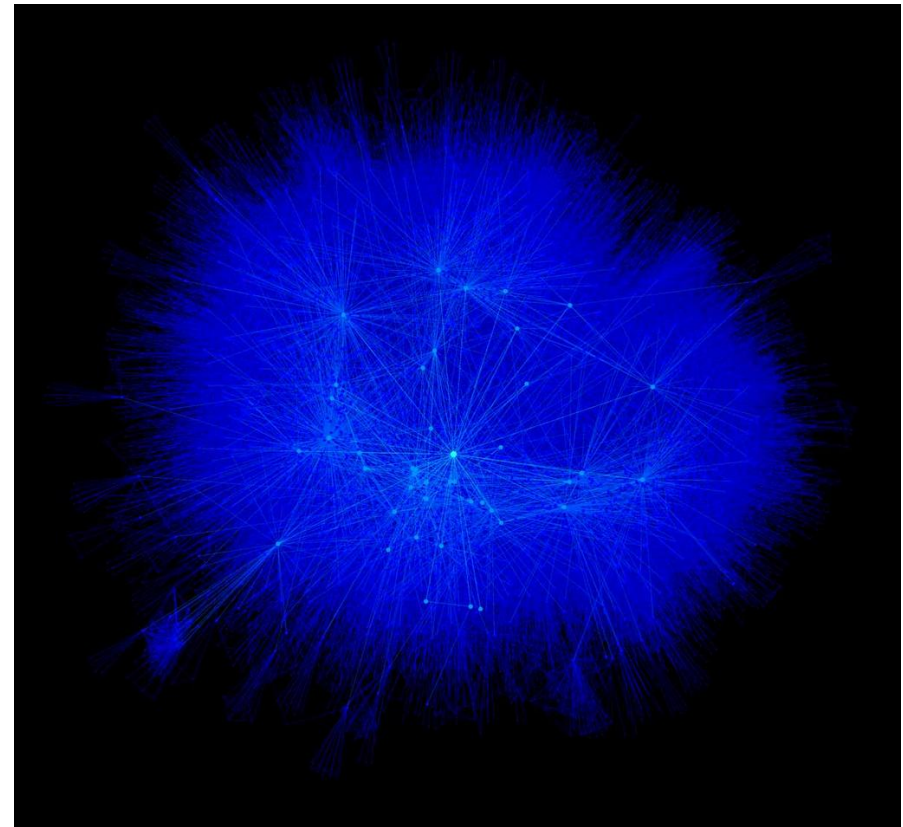
**Geocentric/
Aristotelian view:
The local
catalog is the
sun**



**Heliocentric/
Copernican view:
The local catalog
is a planet**

A New Kind of Library

- Build a vision of a new kind of library
- Examine assumptions
- Be more involved with research and learning materials and systems
- Move to next generation systems and services
- Make library collections and librarians more visible



An online social network

Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium

*Confronting the Challenges of
Networked Resources and the Web*

An illustration on the right side of the banner features a blue and green globe showing the Americas. In front of the globe is a computer monitor displaying a colorful interface, a keyboard, and a stack of books in various colors (green, blue, orange).

LC Action Item 6.4: “Support research and development on the changing nature of the catalog to include consideration of a framework for its integration with other discovery tools.”

Calhoun, Karen. *The Changing Nature of the Catalog and Its Integration with Other Discovery Tools*. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 17 March 2006. <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf>



Methodology

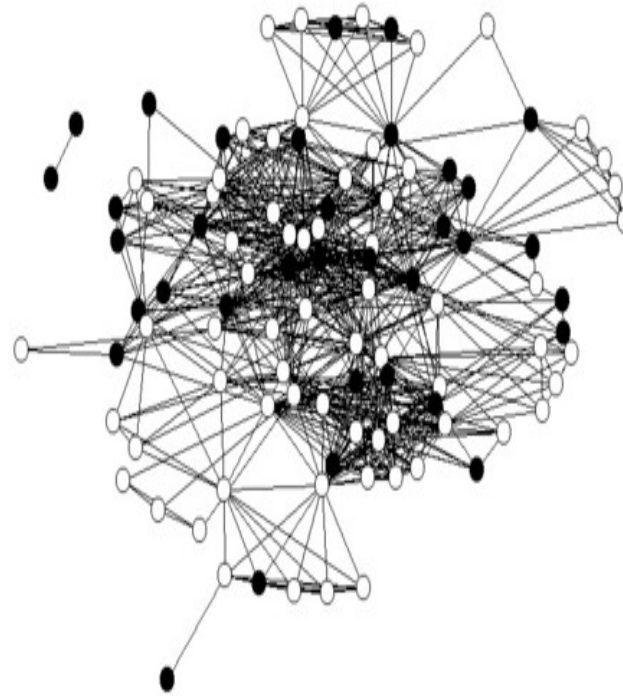
- Interdisciplinary literature review
- Structured interviews
 - 23 noted library and information science professionals
- A business perspective
 - Product life cycle
 - Competitive strategy

Public Choice



The Catalog in Context, 1

Online catalogs represent one node in the scholar's information universe





The Catalog in Context, 2

As information systems, catalogs
are hard to use

**How OPACs Suck, Part 3:
The Big Picture**

Posted on 05/20/2006

at 10:57:26 AM

by Karen G. Schneider

[http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2006/05/
how-opacs-suck-part-3-the-big-picture.html](http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2006/05/how-opacs-suck-part-3-the-big-picture.html)

The Catalog in Context, 3

New initiatives vie
for resources
(both human and
financial) devoted
to producing
catalogs



The Continuing Importance of the Catalog

- Books and serials are not dead, and they are not yet digital
- ARL libraries spent the lion's share of \$665 million on books and serials in 2004



The legacy of the world's library collections is tied to the future of catalogs



What To Do About It

Revitalize:

1. Innovate and reduce costs
2. Develop new uses for catalog data
3. Find new users for catalog data

USERS

New



<p>New users, Existing uses</p> <p>Examples: -Programs for freshmen -"Push" to course Web pages</p>	<p>New users, New uses</p> <p>Examples: -Mass digitization -<i>Large scale integration with other systems</i> -Universal access</p>
<p>Existing users, Existing uses</p> <p>Examples: -Minor enhancement to existing catalogs</p>	<p>Existing users, New uses</p> <p>Examples: -E-journal discovery -Subject pathfinders -Export to bibliographic management software</p>

Existing



New

USES

**“Thirty-two Options & Three Strategies”—
A Radical Abridgement**

LEAD

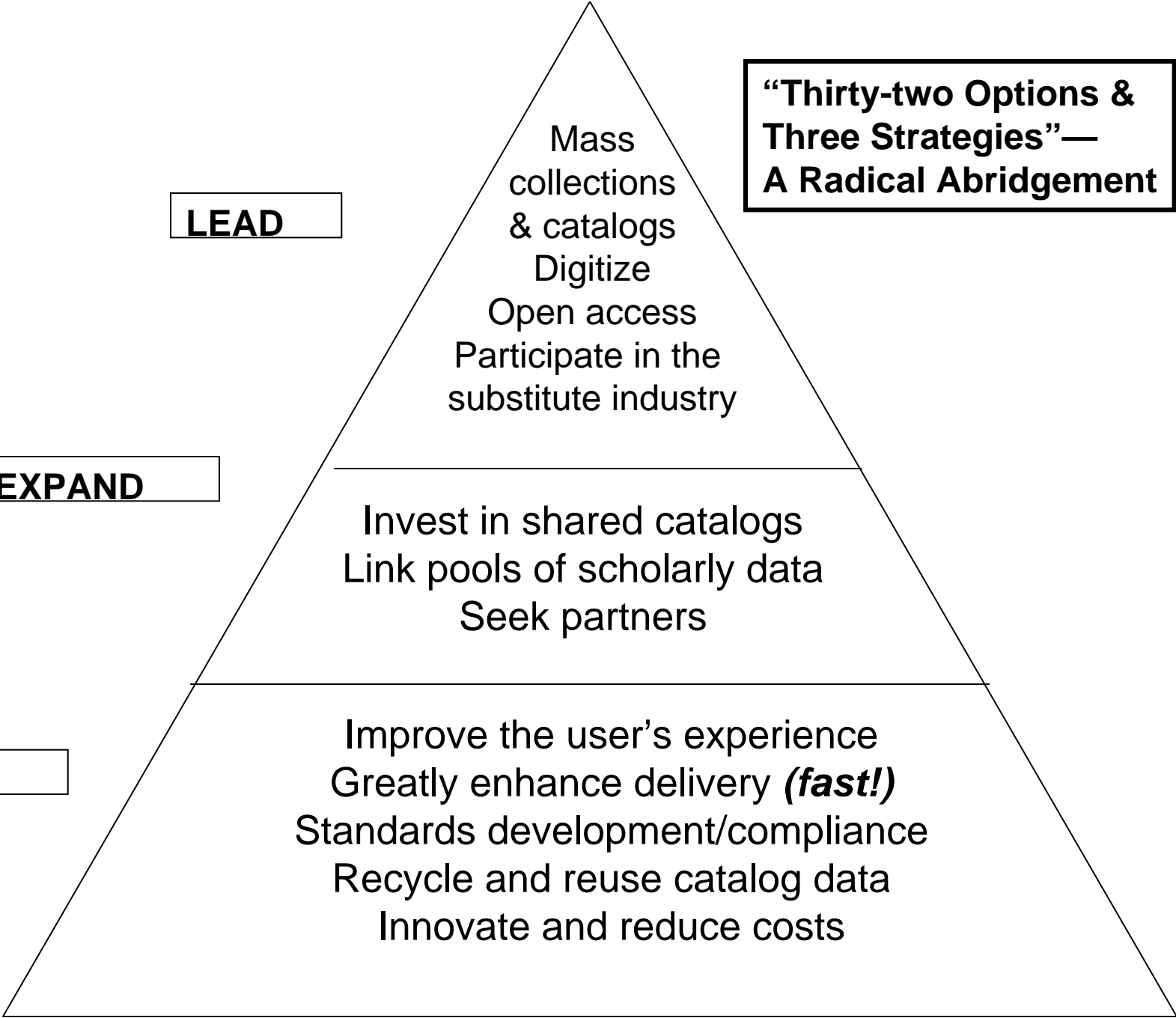
Mass collections & catalogs
Digitize
Open access
Participate in the substitute industry

EXPAND

Invest in shared catalogs
Link pools of scholarly data
Seek partners

EXTEND

Improve the user’s experience
Greatly enhance delivery (*fast!*)
Standards development/compliance
Recycle and reuse catalog data
Innovate and reduce costs





Innovations and Cost Reductions

- ❑ Much better linkages: ingest, convert, extract, transfer
- ❑ Simplify & exploit all sources of catalog data
- ❑ Eliminate custom practices
- ❑ Automate and streamline workflows
- ❑ Explore automatic classification, subject analysis; reengineer and automate LCSH practice
- ❑ Mine catalog data for new uses

Extend: AquaBrowser

The screenshot displays the AquaBrowser interface with the following components:

- Browser Window:** Titled "Queens Library - AquaBrowser Library - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL `http://aqua.queenslibrary.org?q=huntington%20free%20library`. The search bar contains "queen's library".
- Navigation:** A menu bar with "Home", "Books", "Articles", "Dvd/Video", "Music", "Websites", "Software", "Audiobooks", and "Events".
- Search:** A search bar with the query "native american languages" and a "Search" button. Below it, a message states: "Your query 'native american languages' returned 115 results." The results are sorted by "relevance".
- Results:**
 - 1. Native American languages:** A book by Bethanne Kelly Patrick, published by Mason Crest Publishers in 2002. The description mentions "accurate and encompassing journey into the world of Native Americans".
 - 2. Lexical acculturation in Native American languages:** A book by Cecil H. Brown, published by Oxford University Press in 1999. The description mentions "Oxford studies in anthropological linguistics".
 - 3. Native American worldviews:** An introduction.
- Left Sidebar:** A word cloud visualization with "native american languages" as the central term. Other terms include "audiobooks", "write", "russian", "student", "picture", "speech", "indian", "self", "A-American", "A--American", "Langoues", "autocriticism", "aborigine", "aboriginal", "indigena", "3-American", "class", "literature", "song", "college", "education", "psychology", "study", and "folklore". A legend at the bottom identifies colors for "Associations", "Translations", "Spelling variants", and "Discovery trail".
- Right Sidebar:** A "Select a Branch" dropdown menu set to "All locations". Below it is a "Refine your search" section with "Catalog" (108) and "Queens Library Website" (7). The "Format" section lists "Books (81)", "Videos and DVDs (11)", "Music CDs and Cassettes (9)", "Books on Cassette or CD (3)", and "Music Scores (1)". The "Queens Library Website" section lists "Ethnic & International Studies (2)", "About Us (2)", and "For Parents (1)". At the bottom is an "External Sources" section with a "Login" button.



Expand: Libraries Australia

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/102-Cathro-en.pdf>

- *Libraries Australia*: National union catalog of 40 million resources of 800+ Australian libraries
- National Library of Australia examined the “proposition that it replace the NLA catalogue with ... *Libraries Australia* as the primary database to be searched by users”—Warwick Cathro, Asst. Director-General, Innovation, NLA



Lead: Outward Integration

“Integration should be outward rather than inward, with libraries seeking to use their components in new ways”

--Interviewee for LC report on future of the catalog

It should be as easy to borrow a book on the Web as it is to buy a book on the Web



DISCOVER

- Easy
- Fast
- Lots of starting points

REQUEST

- Easy
- No hassles
- Seamless

DELIVER

- Easy
- Fast
- Lots of formats

Find It on Google,* Get It from My Library

- ❑ Open WorldCat
- ❑ RedLight Green
- ❑ Google Scholar
- ❑ Google Book Search
- ❑ Google Library Project
- ❑ Million Book Project
- ❑ Open Content Alliance
- ❑ EU project
- ❑ E-books and journals



***The word "google" was first used in the 1927 Little Rascals silent film "Dog Heaven", used to refer to a having a drink of water.**

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_\(verb\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_(verb))



Implications for the ILS?

- Extend strategy
 - “Discovery” layer with ILS back end?
- Expand strategy (shared catalogs)
 - Modularity: “Think in terms of linking rather than building”
 - Web services (importance of standards)
- Leadership strategy
 - “Outward integration”-Library collections and other scholarly information objects more visible in the user’s environment
 - ILS = a service layer for supporting requesting, rights management, linking, inventory control, delivery



Stones (Boulders) In the Road

- ❑ Many are not ready for change of the magnitude required
- ❑ Progress toward interoperability is slow
- ❑ Copyright law has not caught up with the digital world
- ❑ Precedents for large-scale collaboration are few
- ❑ There may not be enough money

Vision for Change



- The catalog will evolve toward full integration with other discovery tools
- Shared catalogs and open information systems will radically democratize access to library collections and boost scholarly productivity to new levels



Thank You!

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