The Changing Landscape of Research Library Collections

Ensuring Realistic Sustainability

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Sustainability

“Sustainability is the ability to continue a defined behavior indefinitely.” – definition of environmental sustainability from http://www.thwink.org/sustain/glossary/EnvironmentalSustainability.htm

Academic library collections are typically looked at in terms of economic sustainability but in our paper, we focus on factors beyond the financial that affect, and indeed can enhance, sustainability of our collections.
Why is this important?

- All about values
- Being Green is good citizenry
- Framed within context of environmental, social, economic, political values & goals
- Promotes collaborations & partnerships, new technologies & publishing methods
- Format agnostic
- Changing roles in higher education, academic libraries require reimagining library collections
- Reinforces ideas about resource sharing
Academic Collections at Risk: Current Practices Not Sustainable

• We take as a given that current collection development practices across a whole range of format are not sustainable

• Thus this presentation looks at specific instances where sustainability can be enhanced by adopting new procedures
Cost of Science Publishing

http://www.nature.com/news/open-access-the-true-cost-of-science-publishing-1.12676
Enhancing Sustainability

• Offers flexibility
• Promotes new methods of collection assessment
• Provides user-centered metrics (demand driven, evidence based)
• Emphasizes campus authored & generated content from faculty & students
• Develops Library as publisher model
• Resolves Space issues
• Aligns digitization as a new format
Open Access

- Applies to articles, journals, chapters, books
- Reduces barriers / enhances reach
- Hybrid or multiple options
- Different models may be more sustainable than others
- New finding aids for OA
- Encourages Library/Librarians to be proactive with authors
- More sustainable long term
- New challenges for publishers & libraries
Additional Library Materials

- Media & Multimedia
- Textbooks & Educational Resources
- Data
- Grey Literature
- Objects and Ephemera
Open Educational Resources

http://guides.library.ucla.edu/c.php?a=180579&p=1187033
Sustaining Research Data Management often an unfunded mandate

The OCLC report sets forth several funding strategies: Getting Institutional Budget Support, Including Data Curation Costs in Grant Proposal Budgets, Charging Researchers, Charging Data Users, Endowment, Repository Funding, and finally, Making Do (pp. 4-5).

It discusses pros and cons of each strategy, concluding that a combination of approaches is probably necessary: “To determine their best course of action, each institution will need to balance the costs of providing data management services with the benefits of responsible stewardship of their institutional assets” (p. 7).
Research Software Also Needs to be Sustained

[Image of a spiral staircase]

Research Software Sustainability
Report on a Knowledge Exchange Workshop

Author
Simon Hercock, The Software Sustainability Institute

February 2016

http://repository.jisc.ac.uk/6332/1/Research_Software_Sustainability_Report_on_KE_Workshop_Feb_2016_FINAL.pdf
Issues to Consider

• Just depositing research datasets in a repository is NOT data curation
• Datasets need to be curated, i.e., handled with an eye to future usability
• This includes format and data migration.
• It also will include software upgrades
• Or if hardware and software can be *encapsulated* that would also help sustain the research data
• Some institutions, especially in the United Kingdom, limit research data retention periods to what is mandated by funding agencies. However, we believe each study (which can be composed of many datasets) should be considered for the longest retention conceivable, if legally allowable.
HK Booksellers/Publishers Renditioned?

https://www.hongkongfp.com/missing-booksellers/

Seven banned books: Published in Hong Kong, censored in China

The recent disappearances of five Hong Kong residents connected to the Causeway Bay bookstore and Mighty Current publishing house have caused a storm in the Chinese special administrative region. Under “One Country Two...
Supply Chain Disruption:
Small Press Bookstores as Distributors
Intellectual Freedom at Risk?

http://www.scmp.com/photos/recent/all/1727436
Scene from “Local Eggs” (Ten Years film)
Apartment of banned books
Scene from “Local Eggs” (Ten Years film)

https://newbloommag.net/2016/04/09/ten-years-art-politics/
Steps towards Sustaining Controversial Political Small Press Books

- Create special intellectual freedom collections in libraries
- Purchase such titles from small distributors such as Greenfield Books
- Fund digitization projects to convert these into ebooks
- Hold book readings of these titles in the libraries
Scene from “Dialect” (Ten Years film)


The driver is increasingly unable to find work because of his inability to speak Mandarin and the growing predominance of fares who only speak Mandarin or are only willing to speak Mandarin. He also experiences alienation from the aspects of the changed social environment after the restrictions placed on Cantonese when he becomes unable to communicate with other individuals because of his only being able to speak Cantonese; in an especially well-staged scene, the driver becomes alienated from even technology itself, when his GPS is unable to recognize Cantonese or the driver’s poorly pronounced Mandarin.
Umbrella Movement leader
Joshua Wong Chi-fung’s 2015 book
Cantonese Title Rendered Unintelligible in Mandarin Transliteration

Source: http://library.cuhk.edu.hk/

| Author       | Huang Zhifeng
| Title        | Wo ba shi xi lu : she ba qian hou / Huang Zhifeng.
| Publisher    | Xuegong. Bai juan chu ban she, 2015.
| Edition      | Chu ban.

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Steps towards Sustaining Local Cantonese Literature

• With Linked Data, add Cantonese Romanization to Cantonese-language material
• Provide additional tracings for authors or film directors known by their Cantonese-Romanized names
• Build local collections of Cantonese literature
• Hold book readings in Cantonese in libraries
Conclusion

• Sustainability is more than about just financial or fiscal constraints
• New roles for collection sustainability
• Access still key
• Knowledge generation is powerful justification for collection development/management in changing academic environments
• Sustainability reinforces core library values
Knowledge Stewardship

Libraries are the steward of knowledge. Collaboration, partnerships, relationships will contribute to whether the changing library and publishing environments can offer greater sustainability as we invest in a more intense digital world. The future compels us to learn from past experiences and see if improving practices contribute to a more balanced and sustainable situation.
Thank you very much!

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