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SUPPORT OF THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF SCIENTISTS AND THE CHANGING PATTERN OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

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"The delivery of high quality information services is the core mission of science and engineering libraries".

This paper will address the changing pattern of scholarly communication along with its impact on academic libraries and how it is influenced by electronic information. In addition, budgeting changes in this new environment, the need for improved information literacy and restructuring academic libraries will also be addressed. Also possible changes in scholarly publishing, the persistence of paper usage in the era of electronic information and finally, the use of faculty profiles in the improvement of information flow.

We are in a transmission mode in the information age. The impact of new technologies on patterns of scholarly communication is inevitable. We can guess what it might portend for the role and the services of the library.

Until very recently collection development librarians were concerned with the completeness in the collections of a library to serve scholars' needs, who wanted it for effectiveness and efficiency. Scholars, in the sciences in particular, are frequently concerned with access to information that may affect the experiment they are conducting in their laboratory, they need access to information as soon as possible. Now



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completeness of collections of a new type is available. Networks give scholars access to the information stored at different locations.

This new paradigm shift also brings with it new challenges and problems. Until very recently academic libraries budgeting practices have been based on buildings, books, materials and other resources with long, useful lives. Some of these elements will be still with us, eg. the ever increasing cost of serial literature in the sciences. Now, the technological changes are introducing new problems, rapid obsolescence and shorter useful lives, increased maintenance costs and additional capital along with copyright challenges, licensing agreements, cooperative collection development and resource sharing which means reexamination of some of the old assumptions in light of the new environment.

The availability of work stations in faculty offices and even at home and in student dormitories makes it possible for users to receive needed information without even going to the library. Also it signifies a rise in the end-user searching. This brings with it an additional need for instruction, not only when A&I databases are searched, where most end users, especially students, lack necessary expertise and text decoding skills. In addition, in today's array of new electronic resources, the users feel frequently lost. They need a librarian/information specialist as a consultant to explain these new tools.

Another element in the delivery of high quality information services to the academic institution's clientele, in this case in particular faculty, is creation of a database of "faculty profiles". ASU took the first steps in this direction in the early seventies with the first use of a database management system in 1981. Later this effort was taken over by a committee composed of representatives of the Libraries Collection Development Office, the VicePresident for Research Office and Graduate College and published first in print. Latest development has ASU subscribing to the Community of Science database and contributing to it our own faculty profiles.

Creating an environment and structure for increasing awareness of the information needs of scientists in academic institutions and accessibility of information will be perceived as a measurement of the quality and effectiveness of scholarly communication on campus.