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SI 615 Digital Libraries Seminar

Week 2 – History and International Perspectives

Themes for this week

1 Themes

■ Definition in summary

■ Historical developments

■ International perspectives

■ Resources

"The term 'digital library' is relatively new."

Borgman, 2000.

What are digital libraries?

"…organizations that provide the resources…collections that are readily and economically available…"   *Don Waters (1998)*

"…a collaborator within the academy,
yet retains its distinct identity"

Wendy Lougee (2002)

"… the term 'digital library' may even be an oxymoron."

Douglas Greenberg (1998)

"…a 'tenth library" for the University of California"

"…provides a community of users with coherent access to a large, organized repository…"   *Cliff Lynch (1995)*

"… digitized and organized collection, 'full-form online material," link to audience…"

Michael Lesk (1997)

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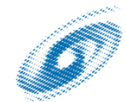
What are digital libraries?

"…the web is not a library."

Jose-Marie Griffiths (1998)

"… services, architecture, enabling technologies, users and content"

Christine Borgman (1992)

"…an environment to bring together collections, services, and people in support of the full life cycle of creation, dissemination, use, and preservation of data, information and knowledge" *Paul Duguid (1997)*

"a national digital library" *Library of Congress*

DLF Definition

Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities.

Donald J. Waters, What Are Digital Libraries? CLIR Issues (July/Aug 1998)

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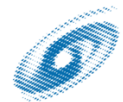
Borgman on digital libraries

Photograph of
Christine
Borgman
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Research and practice: different worlds

- "Digital libraries are a set of electronic resources and associated technical capabilities…
  – Focuses on the technical system
- "Digital libraries are constructed by and for a community of users…"
  – Focuses on process and service

Pre-history

NETWORKS OF POWER
Electrification in Western Society, 1880-1930

THOMAS P. HUGHES

- **Networks and mainframes**
- **Moore's law**
- **Collaborative work: Doug Engelbart**
- **Business-government-academic**

Thomas Hughes, *Networks of power: electrification of western society*, 1880-1930. Johns Hopkins, 1983.
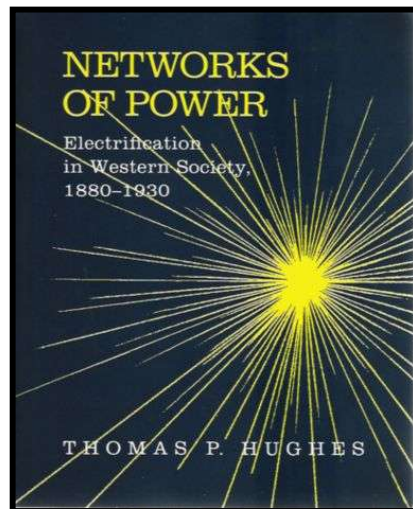
SI's own history as an educational program is tied up in the evolution of the pre-history of digital libraries.

History – scanning and storage

- Xerox PARC 1978 – first scanner
- IBM – storage and workflow
- BellCore – image and text

Photograph of
Michael Lesk
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Building on existing infrastructures, the search for new markets for emerging technologies focused on digital content in "business practices."

History – govt./business early adoption

- Business efficiency – paperless office
- Govt. effectiveness – paperless govt.
- National Archives and Library of Congress – early experimenters
  - ODISS
  - Federal guidelines
  - American Memory pilot

History – university library experiments

- Michigan and Cornell, 1989
- LaGuardia Eight
- Digital Library Federation
- National leadership; little funding

Research libraries have a long and distinguished history of technology experimentation and adoption.
[CLR, CPA, CLIR]

History – university research efforts

- Fox and computer scientists

- NSF DLI1

- NSF DLI2

- Patents and trademarks as an issue

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DLI1: http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/dlione/
DLI2: http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/

Back to Borgman

Separate worlds, separate agendas

- ■ Research vs. practice

- ■ Databases vs. services

- ■ Revolutionary vs. evolutionary

- ■ Distributed vs. institutional

Borgman, p. 48. "Digital libraries are an extension, enhancement, and integration of" … systems and institutions.

Lorcan Dempsey on a decade

■ Discovery to delivery

■ Create to curate

■ Connect, advise, collaborate

■ Hybrid library [from publishing, learning and teaching, access to resources TO integration and preservation of...

■ ..resources: legacy, transition, new, future

Dempsey, 2006. http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue46/dempsey/
Rusbridge, 1998. http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july98/rusbridge/07rusbridge.html

European efforts and beyond

■ Metadata modeling for the pooling of resources
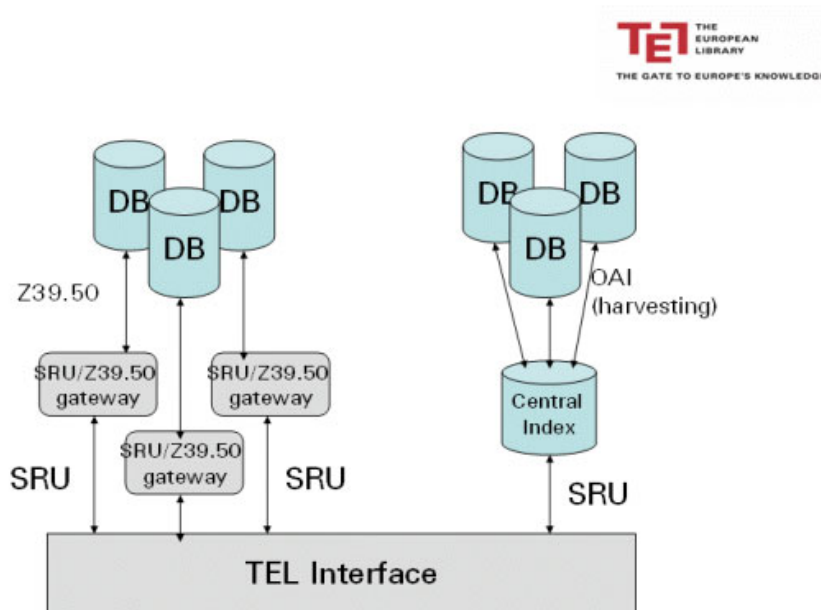
TEL: http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/index.html

Resources for Further Study

- Journals
  - See list in CTools
- Organizations
  - DLF   http://www.diglib.org/
  - JISC   http://www.jisc.ac.uk/
  - DELOS   http://www.delos.info/
- Portals
  - ACM   http://www.acm.org/
  - PADI   http://www.nla.gov.au/padi/
- Conferences
  - JCDL   http://www.jcdl.org/
  - ECDL   http://www.ecdl2007.org/index.php
  - ICADL   http://www.icadl.org/

Thank you!

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