New Roles for New Times

Emerging Library Roles for Supporting and Curating Digital Scholarship

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“New Roles for New Times”
- What are the library’s roles in a 21st century landscape?

Case studies in thought and practice
- University of North Texas
- Virginia Tech

Halbert, Skinner, and Walters 2011
The “library as place” movement sought to re-establish the library as a central scholarly space on campus and within the broader community.

Raphael, “School of Athens, c. 1510”
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But what about the library’s centrality in the academic workflow?
The information landscape has been dramatically changing for the last 30 years

- The information landscape in flux
- Many new players emerging
- Questions abound:
  - Who owns content
  - Who controls content
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- Focus thus far: how offer services quickly
  - Outsourcing as key answer

- Focus shift: how offer services sustainably
  - Ownership
What to do?

- Can’t beat them
- Can’t join them
- Change the game
In many cases, traditions last not because they are excellent, but because influential people are averse to change and because of the sheer burdens of transition to a better state. (Cass Sunstein, *Infotopia*)
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