Digital Libraries: Social and Economic Factors

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Why are you willing to pay $7.00 for a 2-hour movie?

But not $1.00 for 2-hour library use?

If every book in the library becomes a “movie”, would you like to pay for reading the library book?
More questions

- Which one is more expensive?
  - A $10.00 lunch?
  - A $10.00 book?
Social Factors

- Web and DL alter information flows in the society.
  - Users
    - Access much more information;
    - Expect much more;
    - Deliver information faster;
    - Copy, paste, forward (more often).
    - Read more / read less?
    - Information rich / information poor?
Social Factors

- Institutions
  - Under the pressure to deliver contents in digital form (with or without economic benefits)
    - Publishers
    - database vendors
    - Bookstores
    - Libraries
    - Governments
The Social Life of Documents

- Documents convey information as well as create and maintain “communities”.
  - Documents create structures of information and structures of society.
- The document as an object plays valuable social roles because it mediates and temporizes, records traces and fixes spaces, and demands institutions as well as technologies of distribution.
  - The document, they note changes by virtue of staying the same.
  - We are moving from the fixed world of paper documents to the fluid world of digital documents.
The Places of Books in the Age of Electronic Reproduction

- Book is a scattered object that inherits a **spatial location** from the locations of its copies and a **temporal location** from the date of their production.
- Digital books’ spatial location is where the source files are, and the temporal location is “related to access”
The places of books

- Browsing a document database will never be quite as informative as browsing a bookstore or library stacks,
- since electronic documents don't bear physical traces of their provenance the way print books do - the price we pay for delivering them of their bodies.
Dissemination

• In the print environment, publishers control the publication and dissemination of information.
• In the digital environment, who is in control?
  • Publisher? Libraries? Authors?
• More Censorship /less censorship?
What does it mean to publish?

- Publishing without a selection process
- Publishing for prestige
- Publishing for economic gains
- Publishing for entertaining
- Publishing for information dissemination
- Publishing for creation of knowledge.
NOTE: The outer ring indicates the life cycle stages (active, semi-active, and inactive) for a given type of information artifact (such as business records, artworks, documents, or scientific data). The stages are superimposed on six types of information uses or processes (shaded circle). The cycle has three major phases: information creation, searching, and utilization. The alignment of the cycle stages with the steps of information handling and process phases may vary according to the particular social or institutional context.
Intellectual Property

- Copyrights
  - How copyrights benefit the development of digital libraries?
  - How copyrights hinder the development of digital libraries?
  - Do we need (a different) copyright laws for digital libraries?
  - What constitutes a fair use?
Information Integrity and Authenticity

- How to protect digital documents from alteration or misuse?
- How to “quote” from a dynamic document?
- How to cite a dynamic document?
Learning

- Digital libraries create a new learning environment.
- Digital libraries make distance-learning a reality.
- What problems that digital libraries create in related to learning?
Economic Factors

- Economic impacts of digital libraries
- Values of digital libraries
- Funding for R&D of digital libraries
- Pricing digital library services
Conclusions

- There are significant social and economic factors that need to be considered in the development of digital libraries.
- Social and economic factors are no less complex and challenging than the technology factor of digital libraries.