



# **Transforming Health Sciences Libraries and Librarians**



## **Ensuring our Future**

*Patricia L. Thibodeau*

*October 6, 2009*



# Thinking about transformation...

- The challenges / impetus for change
- Thoughts about future of libraries
- Core skills and knowledge
- Roles to explore for future
- Future vision – 5 to 10 years
- Challenge our traditional views



# Current Pulse

- **Budget decreases**
- **Collection funding not keeping pace with price increases**
- **Staffing decreases, not increases**
- **Space being decreased or used for other functions**



# Opportunities for Transformation

- **Unfreeze behaviors, mind set**
- **Reset user expectations**
- **No longer the Status Quo**
- **Realign with institutional priorities / user needs**





# Why we will survive

**Information is essential for**  
**patient care**  
**education**  
**research**  
**consumer health**  
**health care management**  
**health care reform**





*It is not necessary to change.  
Survival is not mandatory.*

» *W. Edward Deming*



*The rule of the game is  
evolving.*

» *Grace Cheng*



## Old Mantra

**Information access anywhere,  
anytime.**

## New Mantra

**Ubiquitous information access  
anywhere, anytime, any device.**

**OR**

***Right content, to the right people,  
at the right time.***





# Environmental changes

- **Health care delivery**
- **Clinical information systems**
- **Health reform**
- **Health professional education**
- **Physician knowledge**
- **E-science and research**



# Time to Say Goodbye?

**...libraries are looking at a death spiral. We are caught in a financial squeeze where we can only do “less with less” ...if we keep playing it out, our library will end up as nothing more than a small office where a tiny team of functionaries try to “broker” digital information for the campus...**

**» *Adam Corson-Finnerty***



# Adam's Strategies

- **Get out of real estate**
- **Get in or out of book storage**
- **Buy books only when requested**
- **Focus on digital services, resources**
- **Re-deploy staff**
- **Create new information partnerships**
- **Talk to leaders about new model**
  - Minimal footprint
  - Digital delivery services and resources
  - Virtual customer support
  - Flexible staff





# Taiga – Provocative Statements

- **Librarians will evolve or die**
- **Patron initiated collections**
- **Intersection of librarianship, information technology, instructional technology**
- **Unmediated service via technology**
- **Campus community centers**



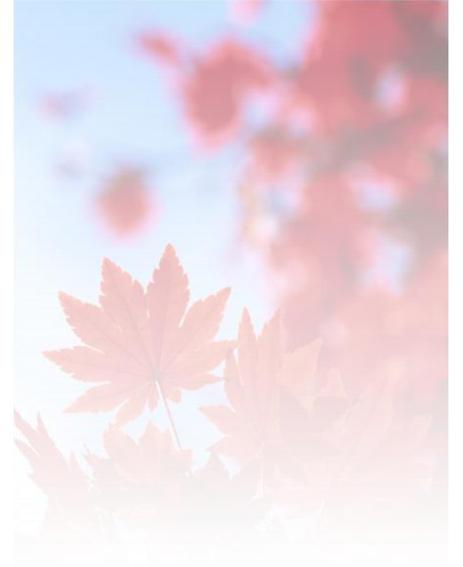
# More from Taiga

- **Align with administrative not academic side**
- **Future directors not librarians**

## **FOR 2011**

- **Public and technical services merged**
- **Reduce collection footprint 50%**
- **Information discovery begins at Google**





# Core Skills



# Core Skills

- **Systems analysis**
- **Organization**
- **Information dissemination**
- **Resource allocation**
- **Strategy**



# Roles?

**E-science**

**Partners**

**Educators**

**E-resources**

**Leverage others' activities**

**Align with priorities**

**Technology**

**EBM experts**

**Project-oriented**

**User-focused selectors**

**Imbedded informationists in disciplines**

**Scholarly communications**

**Web 2.0**

**Designers - systems, on-demand education**

**Leverage others' activities**

**Align with priorities**

**Advisors**

**Filters**

**CME**

**Influencing Google**

**Designers - systems, on-demand education**

**Customize**

**Easy access tools**

**Saving our clients time**



# **My Library Mantra**

## **My Old Mantra**

**We are more than our collections**



## **Revised Mantra**

**We are a collection of services,  
not a collection of collections.**

*» Megan von Isenburg*

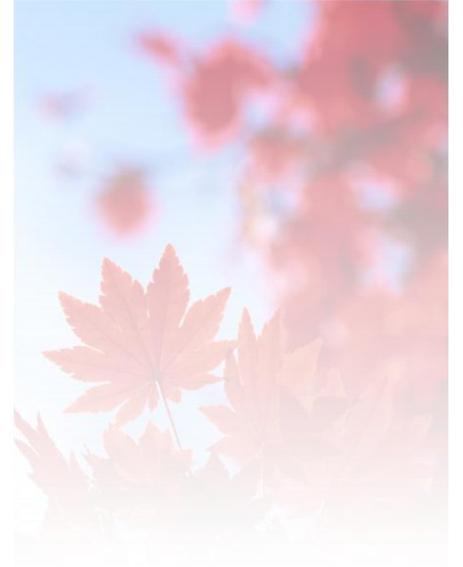
# The Future?





The best way to predict the  
future is to invent it.

» *Alan Kay*



**Thank you!**