

UCLA Library: Cooperative Library Strategies

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- **Present-Day**
 - Big Research Collections; Usage and Resource Sharing
 - ReCAP and the current model of library storage
- **Emerging Possibilities**
 - Off-site to in-the-center; Cooperative networks
 - Curatorial libraries and librarians
- **Collections at Hand and Special Collections**
 - The Collection at Hand provides changing assortments of materials to contemporary users. The Special Collections provides specific items in perpetuity.
 - Print archives **are neither** the collection at hand, nor special collections, but they only make sense **in the context of** special collections and the collections at hand.
- **Collective Collections: Little Used, Constantly Needed**
 - Tens of millions of works that are **little used but constantly needed** to support emerging scholarship and the integrity of the published record.
 - Low circulation (<2% per year) **and** low repetition (<10% per decade)
 - The majority of the collection is dormant at any one time.
- **Automation:** Improves utilization of existing capital; Decouples work from staff time; Holds annual costs flat despite growing operations; Makes errors very limited and highly predictable
- **Sophistication:** Added value within the current operations model; “Sleight-of-hand” services within normal operations; Chains of added-value services tied to baseline activity
- **From “Tasks” to Services**
 - Delivery on-schedule (right time) or on-request (right away)
 - Print and digital combination services: D-first, preview or screening; P-first, then selected scans.
 - Reliability at least “6 nines”
 - Dynamic locations: Use relocates collections to user; system can run at 101+% capacity
 - Better environmental controls and inventory systems: Decay and loss approach zero; Selective “locking” to ensure last copy retention
- **Local Collections: Timeliness and Serendipity**
 - Available right now, right here
 - Must-have books, new and old
 - Curated sets directly relevant to research and teaching
 - Frequent turnover, in years not decades, of on-site collections
- **Global Collections: Reliable access to everything**
 - Within a day or two for a digital surrogate
 - Within a week or so for the original artifact
 - Provided from facilities that ensure safe-keeping
 - Provided when you want it (The right day, as chosen by the user, not just the next delivery)
- **Scarcity of Information:** Last century’s big problem, best solved by cooperative service networks.
- **Scarcity of Attention:** This century’s big problem, best solved by local librarians, in close consultation with students and faculty.