

"Where you and I are going to spend the rest of our lives:"

What a future library really looks like.



MIUG 2015

**July 17, 2015 – LCC - Lansing, Michigan
Corey Seeman – Kresge Library Services
(University of Michigan)
tinyurl.com/MIUG15CS**

Program Overview

- Envisioning the Library of the Future
- About Kresge and Ross Construction
- Change Management
- Becoming the Ethereal Library
- Providing Value With New Constraints
- Closing Thoughts & Questions



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Envisioning the Library of the Future



https://archive.org/details/Plan_9_from_Outer_Space_1959



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- The Big Squeeze is about employees being "squeezed dry"
- Greenhouse looks at the majority of employees – not all.
- We can make the same argument for libraries. Some are prospering, many are being squeezed.
- Libraries are a very important element in the Scholarly Communication Supply Chain. When they are squeezed – it has ripple effects through the entire sector.



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- ACRL Top Trends in Academic Libraries (June 2014)
 - Data
 - Device Neutral Digital Services
 - Evolving Openness in Higher Ed
 - Student Success
 - Competency-based Learning
 - Altmetrics
 - Digital Humanities
- See: <http://crln.acrl.org/content/75/6/294.full>



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- **"Library Space:** You might say that library space (and what we're doing to improve it to meet user expectations better while positioning the library as a place of intentional learning and community engagement) is always a big factor, in any year. In 2015, I think academic librarians will be doing even more experimentation with their spaces in an effort both to attract even more students and demonstrate the beneficial impact of students connecting with the library and librarians. We're only beginning to explore how new spaces for digital scholarship and creativity fit into the academic library. We'll be learning more from one another this year about how to get these spaces right."
- Steven Bell – Top 10 Academic Library Issues for 2015 (Library Journal, February 18, 2015)

(<http://libraryjournal.com/2015/02/opinion/steven-bell-top-10-academic-library-issues-for-2015-from-the-bell-curve/>)



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- In Library as Space Program in 2013 (Michigan Library Association) – I shared the notion that the Library had two spaces:
 - *A physical space*
 - *An ethereal space*
- They provide distinct functions and benefits to the communities we serve.
- Both can be critical for the members of the library's communities.



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- Physical space is used for:
 - Study
 - Print Materials
 - Interaction Spaces
 - Walk-in Access
- For many functions - a physical space can be managed just as well by others.
- Print collections might be 2% of the usage – but 50% of the perception of the library



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- What is the ethereal space?
 - With nearly 98% of our usage from electronic resources* – librarians and library staff can operate from *almost* anywhere
 - This is where we **connect** with our community.
 - This is where we **provide clarity** to a complicated information universe.
 - This is where we **contribute** as a "Value-Add."
 - This is where we SHINE!



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- Would you elect to save your physical or ethereal space?
- What if the decision was made for you? (Internal vs. external decisions on space).
- Space is a luxury on academic campuses – and with that – we lost ours.
- Some engagement, but no open discussion with the community.
- With a large construction project, we lost both student and collection space...



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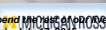


Envisioning the Library of the Future

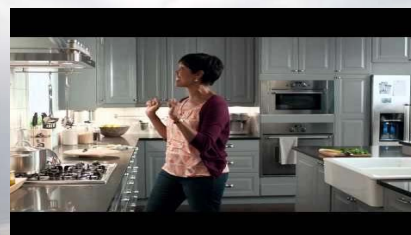
- While these are great directions, our entire business model is based on our **traditional roles and resources**.
- The perception of our needs for space and student needs are being weighed against each other.
- So what does that look like in academic libraries...



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Envisioning the Library of the Future



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- The library of the future is smaller...way, way smaller.
- How does this impact what we collect?
- How does this impact how we serve our campus?
- Do we have the resources to address immediate needs AND be forward thinking about research?
- What type of tools do we need to support research (catalogs, etc.)



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- The future of the library is not alone...
 - Industry sectors "Life Cycle Stage" - IBISWorld
 - Newspaper Publishing – Decline
 - Periodical Publishing – Decline
 - Book Stores – Decline
 - DVD, Game and Video Rental - Decline



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Envisioning the Library of the Future

- The future of the library is not...
 - Drones
 - Self-driving cars
 - 3D printers (making other 3D printers)
 - Slapping "literacy" on any term to take ownership (think flag)
 - Completely within our control



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Ross Construction Project

- Kresge Business Administration Library
 - Built in mid 1980s to serve the research and curricular needs of the Ross School of Business
 - We are open 108 hours during the Fall and Winter Terms.
 - Seating for nearly 700 students.
 - Very visible, located in the center of the Ross Complex (27K square feet).
 - We have a collection of over 140,000 volumes in Ann Arbor and Flint (where they are stored at the University of Michigan-Flint)
 - Constant state of "Library Erosion"

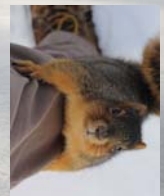


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Ross Construction Project

- Summer 2013 – Scope of plans shared*
- September 2013 – Gift announced
- Early 2014 – Plans developed
- End of Winter Term – Started vacating the building
- June 2014 – Moved to MObtown
- July 2014 – Print moved out
- Fall 2014 – Rebuilding Kresge Library Services



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Ross Construction Project

- Fall 2014 – Rebuilding Kresge Library Services
- Winter 2015 – Kresge Value Proposition Meetings Started
- Summer/Fall 2016 – Expected completion and move in to the new space
- January 2017 – Expected opening of the new building to the school



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Change Management

- For a few years, change has been all around us.
- Change.org petitions
 - Michigan man has 175K petitions to stop banning Dukes of Hazzard (<https://www.change.org/p/viacom-warner-brothers-walmart-ebay-stop-banning-dukes-of-hazzard>)
- A great change may landed someone on the cover of Vanity Fair
 - Huge change from when he first jumped into notoriety
 - Today – almost unrecognizable
 - Accompanied with a photoshoot by Annie Leibovitz...



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Change Management


- Early movies were mostly fluff (Dear John)
- Turned out – he is VERY VERY Funny
- He is also a great dramatic actor



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Change Management


- Losing Your Physical Space
 - You have to come to grips with what this means
 - We are not a student destination any longer for study
 - We cannot be format agnostic in collecting
 - You cannot dwell on the past – you have to...well...



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Change Management


- Corey’s planning priorities:
 1. Staff
 2. Services
 3. Stuff (*and spend*)
 4. Space
- Build services based on what you **have**, not what you **had**
- Make spending choices not on history – but on future needs
- We had no choice but to build an Ethereal Library!



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Change Management


- Parameters of the Ethereal Library – or the 6P Approach
 - Philosophical
 - Patient
 - Positive
 - Proactive
 - Perform
 - Ms. Pirkola’s Rules



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Change Management - Philosophical

- This is an opportunity to also be freed from what worked and did not work from the past.
- With less space – do not try to recapture everything you did – it will not work.
- Don’t be bound by the past – “Forget the Alamo” – Lone Star (John Sayles – 1996)
- Systems Lesson - Seeman, C. (2002). *Invisible fences: A shocking theory for re-examining work flow. Computers in Libraries, 22(7), 24-30.*



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Change Management - Patient

• Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

- Denial /
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance



- Everyone is moving through this at their own pace – Important for this level of change.
- Every time someone says “Change is Hard” – it becomes harder...



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Change Management - Patient

- Don't expect to have everything mapped out on day 1, or day 100 for that matter!
- A “born digital” library is ***much easier*** to build than a “becoming digital” library.



*Quick Change at
Toledo Mud Hens –
September 2009*



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Change Management - Positive

- It is very easy to be mired in self-doubt with this type of contraction.
- The image of loss cannot be your brand or how you are seen.
- Important to not dwell on decisions that do not benefit you in these projects.



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Change Management - Positive

- There are also some actual positives about not having a public space.
- No longer have to worry about evenings and weekends in bad Michigan weather...



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Change Management - Proactive

- The biggest issue is that we will be out of sight.
- We need to be more proactive about doing outreach and connecting with faculty and students.
- We use all virtual reference systems (chat & email) – need to push them more.
- ***Being visible is our biggest need right now.***



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Change Management - Proactive

- I have been a strong proponent of the Reference Desk – even as many libraries are moving away from that.
- We experimented with a reference service point at Tozzi Center, but it was not ideal.
- We were given the front desk in the Ross Modular Offices – flipped it from Welcome Desk to Reference Desk.
- Having visible staff is important – but they need a good place to work from!



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Change Management - Perform

- In this change, there was never an issue about Kresge Library as a service point.
- That was what *kept us going*.
- That has to be what *keeps us going*.



The MIU team that served w/o the prompt researches of our staff Librarians. #Forreallygrateful
© Hills 2012

Go Blue! Better yet Go Kresge!
- Gord Kling

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Change Management - Perform

- Since we have lost our space – it is all about service.
- We need to be creative in how we deliver services to our community.
- Pay close attention to what they need.
- Experiment and change are critical elements.




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Change Management - Ms. Pirkola's Rules

- Flexibility!
- It has to work in all directions.
- We also need to be flexible with staff as they learn to work with these new confines.
- New Service points need time to develop.




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Change Management - Ms. Pirkola's Rules

- Balance is critical
- Empathy for patrons and staff need to be balanced against each other.
 - The more we provide for patrons, the more we lean on staff.
 - The more we provide for the staff, the less we provide for patrons.




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Becoming the Ethereal Library

Managing associated changes to services for the Ross Community




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Becoming the Ethereal Library

- Assess what you can do with your new space.
- Give up traditional services if you cannot manage or run them effectively.
- You are playing with house money with these contractions – take risks & be entrepreneurial.



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Becoming the Ethereal Library – Existing Programs

- Embedded Librarian program for MAP and Action-Learning continues at Kresge.
- New embedded librarians for entry core class for all BBA Sophomores (500). Librarians are assigned to every section (14) to support their research on a company & response to a social issue. (MERGE)
- Faculty Research Service
- Continue to support other student research (coursework, clubs, careers, case competitions & curiosity)



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Becoming the Ethereal Library – Existing Programs

- Coursepack & Curriculum Support – Moved to Study.net with Kresge Support.
- Previously a print solution – but we did not have a large enough distribution point during construction.
- Community and Alumni assistance (without walk-in access).
- Move remaining print holdings to electronic access.



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Becoming the Ethereal Library – New Programs

- Exam/Assignment Program
 - Many faculty do not want to hand back assignments in class.
 - Some faculty also do not let students keep completed exams.
 - This service ran as a pilot in Winter Term and went to the Library in the Fall 2014.
 - Will Continue with Kresge into the new building.



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Becoming the Ethereal Library – New Programs

- Modular Office Welcome Desk → became Kresge Reference Desk.
- Pickup Location for ILL and Other Deliveries from University Library
- Added Global MBA to our course materials operation
- Evening/Weekend Remote Reference
- Exploring options with Executive Education – The "spaceless dividend"



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Becoming the Ethereal Library – Tools

- We are currently without an integrated system (we have 200 books)
- Exploring options currently to use existing tools (journal locator & MIRLYN catalog)
- We would like a "business portal" – but need to weigh the return on investment (ROI) of these systems



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Becoming the Ethereal Library – Tools

- Considering the costs – thinking of opting for more content than more containers
- Liberating aspects of not "needing" a system
- Creative use of existing tools (Libguides for American Business Law Association Bulletin archives: <http://kresgeguides.bus.umich.edu/ABLAbulletin>)
- Experimentation & implementation during AY2016 – We hope...



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Becoming the Ethereal Library

*Most things
(even those
that moved)
eventually
bloom again!*



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- Great deal of discussion about the "value" of the academic library.
- The need for this discussion could be an indication that we've reached a "tipping point."



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- There is the appearance of endless information availability from wherever you are – this we know is not truly accurate
- If we think about the changes to other industries (automotives, pharmaceuticals, journalism, etc.), few are operating as they'd like.



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- Our "old" value proposition:
 - Space for students to study
 - Space for physical collections (in all formats)
 - Strong historical collection
 - Strong electronic collections



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- Our "new" value proposition must:
 - Live within the restrictions of virtually no collection space.
 - Figure out new collaboration mechanisms to serve our community.
 - Move away from the model where we provided student study space.
 - Focus on what we can do vs. what we have done.



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- This is the time to think about what our value is and how to continue with the new constraints.
- Brain-storming about creating service points – real and virtual.
- Failure is an option – it allows us to be entrepreneurial and try things out.
- Allows us to change the vision for the new staff space.
- Build as you go!



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- Our “new” value proposition remains:
 - Using the resources at our disposal, we will support the curricular and research needs of the Ross Community.
 - We will acquire resources only where we have the means to store or manage them.
 - Seek out new opportunities to provide services for the school & campus.
 - Embrace our new reality.



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Providing Value With New Constraints

- “Kresge Value Proposition” Meetings
- Winter 2015 – with Faculty, Students and Staff
- Will continue moving forward
- New ideas to come from these meetings:
 - New subject and journal alerting services
 - Need to bring back course reserves to Kresge
 - Managing communication with Ross communities (faculty, staff, students, alumni)
 - Grow the exam and assignment program
 - Explore opportunities with Exec Education & other departments



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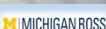


Providing Value With New Constraints

- MBA Student Exit Survey Comments:
 - 1 year of no Kresge....lowered rating
 - I'd still love an actual library where I can study on the Ross campus.
 - Latest editions of most read books should be kept.
 - Kresge was closed this year, so I didn't even really consider them a resource for this year.
 - Well, it would have been nice to actually have a library for my second year.
 - My satisfaction with the library was lower this year just because there was no easily accessible space. I'm sure it will be fabulous once it is finished!
 - They did what they could, but the library doesn't exist right now. It was inconvenient.



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Closing Thoughts & Questions

- Big Win on Staffing
- What does the future hold?
- Where is the Long Tail?
- What's in a Name?
- Are we the Canary in the coal Mine?



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Closing Thoughts & Questions - Big Win on Staffing

- The premise with this reduction has been space and space alone.
- We have been able to move forward with redeployed staff
- No full-time staff losses related to this move.
- Temporary Staff counts way down (no need for full evening staff).



New article - “No One Gets Left Behind:” Managing Library Human Resources During Dramatic Shifts in Academic Libraries in *Advances in Library Administration and Organization* (Volume 33, 2015)



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Closing Thoughts & Questions – Library Futures

- Fewer certainties for academic libraries now and especially 20 years in the future.
- I believe that most libraries will continue to lose space until it is mostly gone.
- We need to be nimble, flexible and resilient to meet the needs of the school – this secures the future of the library.
- We need to be focused on the end-user of the library resources.




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Closing Thoughts & Questions - Where is the Long Tail?

- Print collections are built on needs both now and down the road.
- Many items are used in 10 or 20 years – but will libraries have space to see that materialize?
- Long-term ROI appears to contract in an electronic-only Information environment.




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Closing Thoughts & Questions - What's in a Name?

- Changing our name to Kresge Library Services
- We are no longer a “destination” or a library in the traditional sense.
- The print holdings were 2% of our use, but 50% of our perception.
- Even though “Kresge” will belong to the building – “Kresge Library” has great brand recognition at Ross.




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Closing Thoughts & Questions - The Canary in the Coal Mine

- Are departmental/branch libraries the “canary in the coal mine?”
- Is the canary just sleeping?
- Our space contraction appears to be the future of libraries everywhere – we just had it happen all at once.
- **We were saved by service!**
- Should we just be happy with what we have left...like a squirrel with a churro.



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Closing Thoughts & Questions – It's Not THIS Simple



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Thank You



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