

Abstract of a paper submitted for the conference

**LIBRARIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE (LIDA) 2009**

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Theme: Part I: REFLECTIONS: Changes Brought by and in Digital Libraries in the Last Decade

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## **Changes and trends in the broad arena of digital libraries during the past decade: Reflections from the conference Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) 2000-2009**

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### **Summary**

In the first decade of the new century digital libraries exhibited a continuing, even accelerating growth and changes in many dimensions. The phenomenon is global. Many changes and advances are evolutionary, some even revolutionary. Among others:

- new players, stakeholders, fields, and institutions joined the realm of digital libraries;
- position of digital libraries in the networked environment as exhibited by their reach, access and diversity expanded significantly;
- research community grew and research diversified;
- curricula and professional competencies changed to accommodate a variety of organizational, service and technological needs;
- economic investments in and expenditures for digital libraries increased significantly;
- numerous social, managerial, legal, and ethical issues and effects became more pronounced;
- manifold issues about the evident impact of digital libraries on scholarship, education, society, and culture are being raised and explored.

For the past decade, numerous aspects of digital libraries were presented, analyzed and discussed at the annual international conference Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) held in Croatia. The purpose of LIDA was to address the changing and challenging environment for libraries and information systems and services in the digital world.

The objective of this paper is to examine broadly some of the major changes and trends that occurred in digital libraries as can be seen from examination of a decade of themes, papers, and workshops in the annual conference Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA). In other words, LIDA serves as a framework through which these changes are examined; this provides a scope and limitation for the analysis. All of the analysis is qualitative, with impressionistic overtones.

Since its inception in 2000, LIDA has emphasized the examination of contemporary problems, intriguing advances, innovative approaches and solutions related to digital libraries. Each year a different and 'hot' theme was addressed, divided in two parts; the first part covering research and development and the second part addressing advances in applications and practice. LIDA brought together researchers, educators, practitioners, and developers from all over the world in a forum for personal exchanges, discussions, and learning, made easier by being held in memorable locations.

The following themes were addressed:

Year of LIDA	Themes:
2000	<b>Part I.</b> Positioning libraries on the Internet. <b>Part II.</b> Using Internet in libraries.
2001	<b>Part I.</b> The Internet: ethics and legal issues. <b>Part II.</b> Information services - practice and research.
2002	<b>Part I.</b> Integrating information seeking and information retrieval (IR). <b>Part II.</b> Information services in digital environments - practice and research.
2003	<b>Part I.</b> WWW and information retrieval. <b>Part II.</b> WWW and libraries.
2004	<b>Part I.</b> Human information behavior and digital libraries. <b>Part II.</b> Competences for digital libraries.
2005	<b>Part I.</b> What can digital libraries do that traditional libraries cannot? Or do in addition? Achievements and prospects. <b>Part II.</b> Building a small digital library and digital library network.
2006	<b>Part I.</b> Cultural, social and institutional effects and place of digital libraries. <b>Part II.</b> Building a digital library for children and young adults.
2007	<b>Part I.</b> Users and use of digital libraries. <b>Part II.</b> Economics and digital libraries.
2008	<b>Part I:</b> Education and training in digital libraries. <b>Part II:</b> Reference in digital environments.
2009	<b>Part I:</b> Reflections: changes brought by and in digital libraries in the last decade. <b>Part II:</b> Heritage & digital libraries - digitization, preservation, access.

Rather than analyze each of the 20 themes covered over 10 years, six overarching and recurring subjects are chosen for discussion of changes and trends:

1. **Networked environment:** Digital libraries and the Web - positions, retrieval, diversity (covers 2000/parts I; 2003/I & II)
2. **Development:** : building digital libraries (covers 2005/II; 2006/II)
3. **Services:** variety of services provided (covers 2001/II; 2002/II; 2005/I; 2008/II)
4. **Users & use:** using digital libraries; human information behavior& information seeking in digital libraries (covers 2000/II; 2002/I; 2004/I; 2007/I)
5. **Professional:** education for digital librarians, competencies needed; ethical concerns (covers: 2001/I; 2004/II; 2008/I)
6. **Social:** digital libraries and social, cultural, and institutional effects (covers 2006/I; 2007/II; 2009/II).

Each of the six subjects will be discussed in terms of: (i) general changes that can be observed from the literature over this decade; (ii) topics covered by LIDA papers and workshops; and (iii) generalization of trends.

In particular the generalization part is open for interpretation, interpolation and discussion; participants will be invited to contribute and provide their own reflections.

### Major books on digital libraries reflecting developments, issues and trends

Arms, W. Y. (2000) *Digital libraries*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Online edition retrieved Feb.20, 2009 from <http://www.cs.cornell.edu/wya/DigLib/>

Bishop, A.P., Van House, N.A., & Battenfield, B.P. (Editors) (2003). *Digital library use: Social practice in design and evaluation*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Borgman, C.L. (2000). *From Gutenberg to the global information infrastructure: Access to information in the networked world*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Borgman, C.L. (2007). *Scholarship in the digital age: Information, infrastructure, and the Internet*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Canessa, E. & Zennaro, M. (2008). *Science dissemination using open access*. Trieste, Italy: The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics. Retrieved Feb.20, 2009 from <http://sdu.ictp.it/openaccess/SciDissOpenAccess.pdf>

Cohen, D.J. & Rosenzweig, R. (2005) *Digital history: A guide to gathering, preserving, and presenting the past on the Web*. Philadelphia, PA: Penn Press. Online edition retrieved Feb.20, 2009 from <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/>

Gillespie, T (2007). *Wired shut: Copyright and the shape of digital culture*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Jeanneney, J-N. (2007). *Google and the Myth of Universal Knowledge: A View from Europe*. Translated by Fagan, T. L.. Chicago, London: University of Chicago Press.

Kresh, D. (ed.) (2007). *The whole digital library handbook*. Chicago: American Library Association.

Lesk, M. (2005). *Understanding digital libraries*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. San Francisco, CA: Morgan Kaufmann.

Witten, I. & Bainbridge, D. (2003). *How to build a digital library*. San Francisco, CA: Morgan Kaufmann.