4-20-2016

The Death of the Book, the Fate of Reading and Academic Libraries in a Digital World.

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April 20, 2016.
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About Me ...
“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.
-- Francis Bacon, Of Studies.

“Handing an old book may be the closest you will ever come to physically holding hands with your intellectual predecessors”
-- Martin Antonetti

“Sometimes, you read a book and it fills you with this weird evangelical zeal, and you become convinced that the shattered world will never be put back together unless and until all living humans read the book.”
— John Green, The Fault in Our Stars
The history of textual communication as one calendar year,

- Jan 1: Beginning of writing - Sumer
- July: Codex was invented
- Sept: Gutenberg produced moveable type in late November
- Nov 21: Internet was invented around noon on December 31.
What is Nicholas Carr concerned about?
What is the internet doing to our brains?

- Advances in book technologies made “deep attentive reading” possible by altering the neurophysiological process of reading.
- As the book came to be the primary means of exchanging knowledge and insights, its intellectual ethic became the foundation of our culture.
- But now, this mainstream has been diverted, quickly and decisively into a new channel. The internet has become our medium of choice for storing, processing, and sharing information in all forms, including text.
- A new intellectual ethic is taking hold. The pathways in our brains are once again being rerouted.
Memory has been outsourced:
What is Naomi Barron Concerned About?
The Fate of Reading in a Digital Age.

According to the Nielsen data, 41% of teens now say they “don’t” read for fun.

Citation Project
Your Brain on Hyper Reading

- The research shows that the brain functions differently when reading for leisure or reading intently (close or deep reading).
- The internet entices us to skew the balance away from continuous reading, much less close reading, and toward reading on the prowl.
- Will the time-consuming demands of deep reading be lost in a culture whose principal mediums advantage speed, multi-tasking, and processing the next piece of information?
Academic Libraries in a Digital World

Libraries now play a major role in the digitization of information.

- Digital Commons @ Hope College
- Image Collections @ Hope College
- Shared Shelf Media Collections

Library Materials Expenditures

- 22% Books
- 4% Print Periodicals
- 74% Electronic Resources
The transition to ebooks

The Kindle Model in Public Libraries & for Personal Devices

Academic Libraries

DDA / PDA
What About Print?

Library

- 32% decline in print circulation (2010-2015)

Scholarly Publishing

Average print run of scholarly monographs:

1983 = 2,000  
2013 = 200

Of 1000-1200 submissions to scholarly publishers, only 130 titles are being published.
Roles for Academic Libraries in 2016

- Increasing accessibility & preservation of research content including locally produced content through digitization repositories & support of open access.
- Increased focus on the management of data and faculty and student scholarship and digital assets.
- Libraries will continue to play a critical role in the development of information and digital literacy.
- Libraries will increase focus on library spaces & services in the contexts of larger pedagogical shifts in higher education that foster learning experiences leading to the development of real world skills.
Academic Commons
Tuesday Night
Questions?
Sticky ink is rubbed evenly onto the type