Designing Collections For Collisions: Preserving Library Serendipity in a Digital World

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Hosted by ALCTS
Association for Library Collections and Technical Services
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Meeting In the Stacks
Poll One – This Scenario…

A- Happens in My Library
B– A Chance it Could Happen
C – Probably Never Happens
D– Borders on Fantasy

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Three Things

Engineered Serendipity

What We Are Getting Wrong

Creating the Collisions

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Faculty: We want our students to go to the library and find their way to the stacks where they can discover the books that will contribute to learning and discovery of new knowledge.
Have You Ever Accidentally Discovered a Book in the Stacks That Was an Important Find
Poll Two – Who Browses

A- Parents with Young Children
B– Students (age 8-20)
C – Adults (age 25-60)
D– Senior Citizen
Engineering Serendipity
Horace Walpole Story

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Poll Three – Can You Create the Right Conditions for Serendipity

A- I think so but not sure how to accomplish it

B– I doubt we can create the right conditions to make it happen

C – We might be doing this in my library right now
Serendipity Experiments

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Poll Four – Which Table Will Contribute to Serendipity?

A- Fewer People

B– More People

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Engineering Serendipity – 21st Century Style

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Where Are We Getting It Wrong
Changes in Collection Building

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UNL libraries answer needs by switching to more electronic materials than print

Nancy Busch knows how some students and faculty feel about the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries’ plan to remove books from on-campus facilities.

“I know that this is an emotional thing for people who have an attachment to what they think a library is,” said Busch, the dean of libraries. “But this is the direction we are going.”

And it’s a direction that is sorely needed, she said, as evidenced by rapidly declining circulation numbers at the libraries. The total circulation number from the seven library branches this year is a third of what it was seven years ago – the number of checked out materials dropped from 418,779 in the 2005-2006 fiscal year to 141,603 this year.

Nicole Greenwalt, a senior double major in English and speech pathology, reviews her notes for a test in the first floor of Love Library North on Monday night.
Creating More Collisions
The Alternate Textbook Project

This is the Alternate Textbook Project

Posted on February 20, 2012 by Steven J. Bell| Leave a comment

College students are concerned about the cost of textbooks.

Faculty are concerned about their students spending so much money on textbooks.

The Alternate Textbook Project is designed to find better and less costly ways for faculty to deliver the instructional content their students need to learn.
Impressions of Japanese architecture
Cram, Ralph Adams, 1863-1942


Mode of access: Internet.

Related Images
Poll Five – Accidental Discoveries

Which of the following is the result of an accidental discovery?

A - Ivory Soap

B – Wheaties

C – Bazooka Bubble Gum

D - Apple iPad

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An Often Heard Story

Marla Spivack
MacArthur Fellow and Bee Scholar

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“I got drawn into the honeybee world completely by a fluke.

I was 18 years old and bored and I picked up a book at the library about bees and I spent the night reading it.

It was like science fiction come true.”
Questions? Discussion!

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