Mr. Peter Sidorko, University Librarian at the University of Hong Kong, delivered a speech on how to respond to the radical, new library landscape at the International Forum on Library in the New Era: Trends of Planning and Development. The key themes he touched upon were:

1. Key Trends in Higher Education
2. Key Issues in Library Collections and Spaces
3. Librarian’s New Roles and Skills
4. Library Collaborative Networks

Key Trends in Higher Education

Advancement of information technology has changed traditional learning and teaching styles in universities. Some of the key trends in higher education include:

1. Ease of access to data and information
2. Massively open online courses to learners
3. Skills acquired from informal learning experiences and performance measurements
4. New sources of data for self-learning and performance measurement
5. Changing role of educators due to the vast online learning resources
6. Openness is increasing available content, data, resources, technology
7. New learning/teaching styles

The transformational change in the information landscape in universities has also influenced the role of university libraries. Some major changes are:

1. Collection size is rapidly losing importance
2. New metrics are able to capture value from academic mission but traditional library metrics fail
3. Rising journal cost and open access growing are impact on library collections
4. Viable alternatives to the library are now faster growth and easier access
5. Demand is declining for traditional library services
6. New patron demands stretch budget and organizational culture

With such changes, it is necessary to reform academic libraries to be more supportive for research and learning.

Key Issues in Library Collections and Spaces

Digital information services gradually replace traditional printing ones. The open access to collections, rather than the size of collections, is much more crucial. The collection building requires consideration to:

1. User driven collections
2. Article rentals
3. Unbundling of journals down to article level
4. PPV (pay-per-view)
5. Ad-supported content
6. “Spotify” cation of scholarly resources
7. New content types: raw data, peer reviews

In addition to reorganization of collections, the “space” of university libraries can be designed as places where:

1. Content, technology and services are seamlessly integrated
2. Flexible – technology, furniture, services, etc.
3. Allow users to self-navigate easily
4. Zoning for group/collaborative and individual users
5. Environmentally friendly
6. Equality of access
7. 24×7 daily services
8. Shared

Librarian’s New Roles and Skills

Under such environment, providing teaching and research support becomes a high priority for librarians. It is more and more important for librarians to be equipped with information literacy and support for classroom instruction, establishing connectivity with users. The information support for research can be listed as:

1. Grant opportunities
2. Managing intellectual property and exploiting commercial value
3. Finding collaborators and increasing visibility
4. Management and storage of document and data sets
5. Improving information retrieval and management skills
6. Managing citations
7. Where to publish or alternative forms of dissemination
8. Support for promotion and tenure
9. Managing pre-prints, publications, and post-prints
Library Collaborative Networks

The power of collaboration is beyond words. Technology is changing the information landscape but it now also enables “deeper” collaboration in various areas like collection building, acquisition processes, cataloguing, preservation and conservation, binding, reference, storage, administration and so on. Successful collaborative efforts have:

1. Benefit for all the participants
2. Well defined relationships
3. Common goals
4. Commitment of the organizations leaders
5. Comprehensive planning
6. Shared resources or jointly contracted
7. Distributed benefits
8. A recognised need
9. Positive attitudes
10. Communication
11. Resources
12. A plan with vision, mission and goals
13. Technology(some times)

In the end of the speech, Mr. Peter Sidorko concluded that it is essential for university libraries to have:

1. New collections and collection methods
2. New, innovative and collaborative uses of library spaces
3. New roles, skills and attitudes for librarians
4. Collaboration is the single most important key to a successful, sustainable future