Looking at Libraries

A dialogue with artists and librarians

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Traditional libraries were defined by mission and the tools at hand.

- The written word is an efficient and flexible means of communication
- Ink on paper, pages fastened together at one side is a mature commodity.
- Ink on paper works are available for acquisition for a very short time
- Collections reflect and support local needs
- Economies of scale have value to society
Libraries manage much more than ink on paper; for example:

- Microforms
- Slides and photographs
- Film and video
- Sound recordings
- Samples
- Magnetic and optical storage media
- Artistic objects
The Library as Place

Physical collections drive physical solutions.
Digital resources and the network environment expand reach.
New information formats create new possibilities/responsibilities.
The nature of information is changing.

- The “social life” of information
  - Broader
  - Deeper
  - Interdisciplinary

- The “technical life” of information
  - Complex
  - Fragile
  - Volatile
  - Proprietary
We know how to preserve paper.

The World of Information

Tangible
- Rights to archive are clear.

Digital
- Can we trust industry?

Purchased
- How do we preserve bits?

Licensed
- How do we preserve bits?

Rare & Special
- Archives & Records

Open Web
- Original Digital Work

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The Library will continue to be important as a place.

- Rethink physical collection management – but no reliable alternative yet available
- Human brains do not evolve as rapidly as technology
- Making sense of chaos will always be high-value
- Economies of scale will be more necessary than ever
- Works in many media need curation and stewardship
Where ever you are, that place will be a library.

- Information resources are everywhere you are
- Support is everywhere you are
- Your information resources are collaboratively curated by the library
  - Research
  - Teaching
- Instruction is where the students are
Visual art and libraries must work to shape the future.

• “The Art of Reading”: Forty children’s illustrators celebrate 40 years of *Reading is Fundamental*. $19.99, ISBN: 0-525-47484-6) is published by Dutton Children's Books

• "Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity."
  
  - Simone Weil

• 21st Century literacy