

Digital Libraries: Redefining the Library Value Paradigm

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As libraries, and in particular academic and research libraries, move from being largely print based or a hybrid of print and digital to primarily digital libraries, the question of what value the library brings to its parent organization begins to be challenged. No longer the heart of campus, physically or spiritually, academic libraries face the challenge of convincing administrators that they remain relevant to student and faculty success as well as to institutional reputation. Yet reports show that faculty and students are generally satisfied with electronic resources. This paper will look at some of the value issues surrounding digital library resources including licensed and purchased commercial resources, in-house created digital resources and institutional repositories, and, the means by which we can demonstrate renewed value that academic libraries deliver to their institutions.