

Abstract for presentation by Mike McGrath “Sailing the stormy sea - interlending and document supply in 2016”. Rome May 19 2016

Since the late 1990s our information environment has been undergoing two radical transformations – hence ‘the stormy sea’ of the title. The first is the move from analogue (print) to digital (electronic); this transformation is virtually complete as far as journals are concerned, certainly in the fields of Science, Technology and Medicine (STM). Books are less clear cut but e-books are clearly here to stay. The second is the introduction of open access, which is having a dramatic impact on both the accessibility of research outputs and the pricing models of publishers.

Both these transformations continue to have a very significant impact on ILL. This presentation will identify the key factors in these transformations which affect the ILL service. The current global situation will be outlined with some possible outcomes over the next few years.

The presentation will strive to emulate the saying of that well known Italian Marxist, Antonio Gramsci – ‘Optimism of the will but pessimism of the intellect’!