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Invisible library

Library collections are becoming more and more invisible to clients. All existing print collections cannot be held within libraries, because space is expensive. They are weeded and placed in repositories or given away. Freed space is used for workstations as well as study and recreation areas.

Even electronic collections are more and more invisible. Researchers use Google Scholar and other search engines instead of library interfaces. The latest phenomenon is the usage of web-based applications such as Researchgate and academia.edu, which enable researchers to upload, save and deliver their documents from peer to peer without using a middleman.

Libraries are facing big challenges. They need to market their services more and make themselves visible again. Interlibrary lending needs a new definition and new focus. It should be one of the tools in a new service, which provides printed materials to users fast and efficiently.