International Challenges: What Lies Between the Local and the Global?

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Selection for Preservation: Overarching Principles

• Selection adds value to collections
  – Reflects values and tastes
  – Provides coherence to collections
  – Makes collections manageable
  – Establishes relationships between producers of resources, stewards, and users

• The value that selection adds to digital information is not well understood – out there
Recent Social Trends

• Information Explosion

• Disparity of the Internet Use
  – 378 million Internet Users (Sept. 2000)
  – North America (161 million)
  – Europe (105 million)
  – Asia-Pacific Region (90 million)
  – Latin America (15 million)
  – Africa (3.11 million)
  – Middle East (2.4 million)
Geography of the Internet

• Wide disparities within countries of adaptation
  – Urban areas have higher rates of adaptation
  – Even in countries with high rates of adaptation, some cities account for the vast majority of Internet content and service production

• Increased concentration of knowledge production
Commerce and Industry

- Domination of multi-national corporations
- Information-enabled distributed manufacturing
- Global production and marketing
- Mass-customization
Science and Research

• Collaboration
  – Across disciplines
  – Among researchers and research teams

• Enabled by network technology

• Driven more by new analyses of new combinations of data then by heroic discoveries
Government and Governance

- Decline of traditional political institutions
- Increasing significance of supra-national and regional organizations
- Privatization of many government functions and services
- Transactions between citizens and government are moving on-line
Civic Engagement and Social Movements

• Decline in traditional forms of social participation
  – Voting
  – Labor unions
  – Social organizations

• Counter-trends
  – Mass membership organizations
  – On-line communities
  – Regular contact (mostly via e-mail) among family members and friends
Topology of Digital Collections
Implications for Selection and Preservation of Digital Information

• Selection has typically been built on institutional and national models
• Increasingly both creation and use of digital resources exceed and even challenge the boundaries of institutions and nations
• Distinctions between library, archive, and museum collections are breaking down
Implications (2)

• The production and location much significant content is not aligned with traditional collecting/curatorial institutions

• Some examples
  – Multi-national corporations that publish works in many languages with authors from many countries
  – Collaborative research teams that draw researchers from many universities
  – Multi-national and supranational organizations
  – E-communities and grass roots movements
Implications (3)

• Funding models for development, selection, and preservation of digital collections still are based on national, state, and local allocations and on institutional commitments, especially research universities
Closing Thoughts

• Selection and preservation of digital collections should be as collaborative and inter-institutional as the processes that produce these collections

• Pay attention to deep web resources

• Organizations, communities, and individuals who value digital collections will be important intermediaries in selection and initial preservation
Closing Thoughts (2)

• We need better selection models, but we also need practice and experience
• Articulate and document the value that selection adds
• Reconsider selection models based on national and institutional models
• Don’t assume we will get it right the first time(s)
• Fix the funding model