

As you have heard from the previous speakers, Jackson Library has had a very impressive 75 years and is a valued and integral part of the Business School and the Stanford community. Over the weeks since the invitations for this party went out many people have shared their memories of the library with me. Some were about how they used the wealth of information available through Jackson to start their business or make their investments; some were about heroic efforts on the part of the library staff to find them what they needed for their research or their classes; one of the faculty reminisced about guarding the library overnight during the student demonstrations of the 60s; still other stories were about the enormous challenges of having Chinese food (among other things) delivered and smuggled up to the study rooms. In every case people spoke about the value they had gained from their interaction with the library and its staff.

As the GSB looks forward to our new campus and to the full implementation of our new curriculum, the library looks forward as well to what's next in our continuous reinvention of ourselves. Academic libraries are going through exciting and turbulent times right now and Jackson is no exception. In some ways the future should be the easiest thing to talk about because there are endless possibilities and, since no one can foretell the future, I can't be blamed for getting it all wrong. On the other hand that glare from the bright future makes it very difficult for me to see anything clearly. To paraphrase those local Bay Area philosophers, the Grateful Dead, "what a long strange trip it's going to be".

So after listening to all the stories and thinking about the common threads, I have chosen 3 things (among many) that I think will characterize a vital successful Jackson Library in the future.

Portability

In the past libraries provided knowledge and information in containers called "books" and "journals". Our focus was on collecting and managing those containers. In the future almost everything you need to know will be available digitally. In the future, information is ubiquitous and Jackson (and its knowledge and information) will be available anytime, anywhere on any device. It will be available on screens large and small, portable and fixed, on your cell phone, your ipod, your handheld, your game console, on your neural implant.

In the new world, if one of our students in China is heading off to a job interview and needs one last piece of data to wow her potential employer, she pulls out her mobile device (since she is a GSB student it will be whatever the latest and coolest one is) and queries her virtual Jackson Library and gets exactly the information she needs in seconds. If she needs help or someone to pull his data and text it to her in the meeting, librarians are available 24/7 through our worldwide collaborative networks. She will of course get the job, become amazingly successful, and make a large donation to the school.

Discoverability

The world is moving to broad-based participation in information creation and information discovery. Libraries in the future will engage and facilitate this participation. A key way

that we will do this is by making all of this vast quantity of digital material discoverable. We will continue in our role of collecting and evaluating information for people without intruding on or frustrating their efforts to interact with each other or the information.

What's important in the future is not how many books, journals, or databases you have; it's being about to find materials, then search across them and integrate them with other information. In the library of the future faculty and students will be able to easily combine services and content and remix their information. We will provide the cyber-infrastructure, the taxonomies, and the tagging to help navigate these paths for exploration.

In the future, your Jackson Library toolbar functions as your TIVO for the internet and for all the proprietary sources we have. George Foster won't have to ask what the analysts are saying about International Fight League, his tool bar will have noticed his interest and automatically downloaded the reports as they became available and sent them to his Blackberry. (or that neural implant). That toolbar will also point to other experts in the field and hook him into the virtual social network of other marital arts aficionados.

Designed for engagement

Finally I would like to talk about the library as a space. Libraries have always been about engaging other scholars and making the connections with other people's work. Jackson's new space will foster information discovery, analysis, and management; and provide an environment for knowledge creation and incubation. We have the opportunity to create an Intellectual Commons: a place where faculty, students, alumni, and outside scholars come together to build knowledge; a place that stimulates interaction and collaboration by increasing their access to one another and to the resources, expertise, technology that they need. The new GSB curriculum focuses on collaboration and community and the design of the library will support those goals.

People talk about the "third place". This is the place that is not home, not the office or the classroom, but the place in-between. Third places, are anchors of community life and facilitate and foster broader, more creative interactions. Jackson will be one of those third places in the new business school. If you look at how our students use space now, you can see that all aspects of their life are intertwined and that they prefer to move seamlessly from one activity to another without have to physically relocate. The new library will bring together resources, expertise, and technology in a comfortable, attractive, multipurpose space. Students will easily move between research, group discussion, collaborative presentations and productions, socializing and maybe even having that pizza or Chinese food delivered to the library while they are working.

Finish

These are just a few of the changes I see in our immediate future. Libraries will also play pivotal roles in the creation of digital repositories, the coming changes in the scholarly communications model including open access and copyright, negotiating agreements with

commercial partners, supporting and creating virtual collaborations for multidisciplinary research. Jackson is creating an oral history of the GSB to capture the members of our community telling our stories and the story of business education at the GSB. I think we will be busy.

What form the library takes in the future is open to the imagination, but the promise, the potential, and the possibilities never change. I would like to close with this quote from Jan Stanford:

“Let us not be afraid to outgrow old thoughts and ways and dare to think on new lines as to the future work under our care.” Jane Stanford 1903

Thank you all so much for joining us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the library. It is a pleasure to celebrate this occasion with you.