

# The Place of the Academic Library in the Digital Age

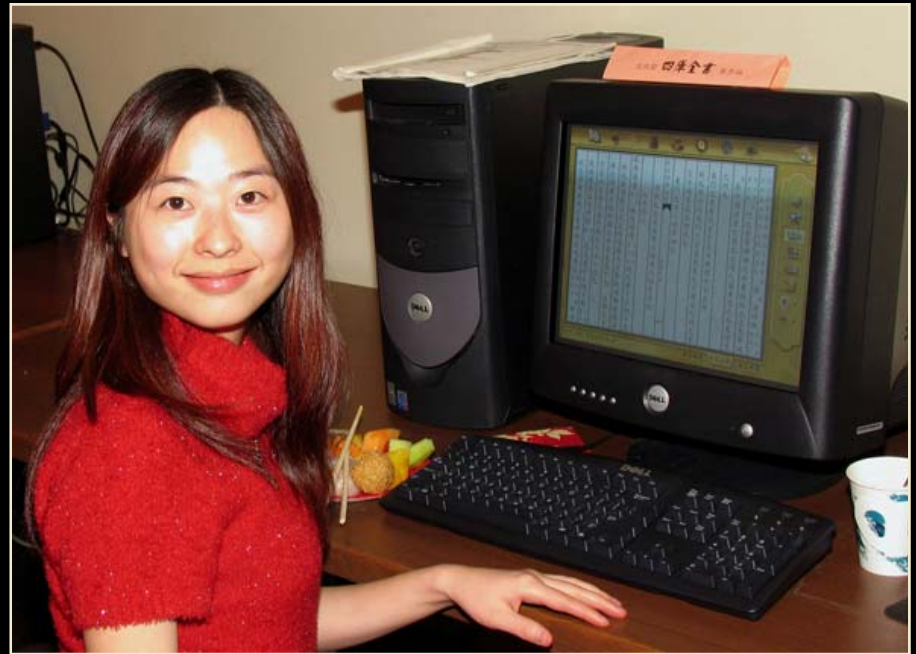


The 4th Shanghai International Library Forum  
21 October 2008

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University of Chicago

# Library Mission

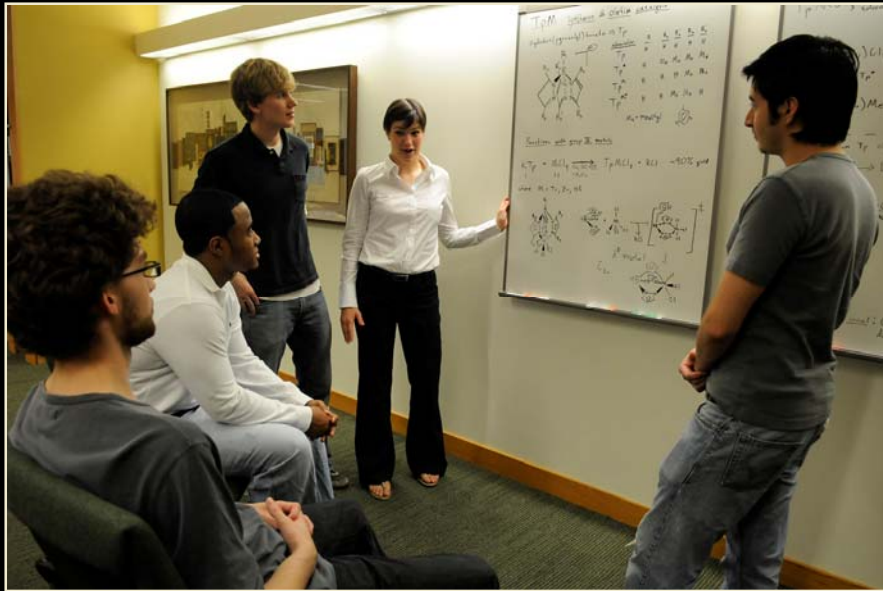
The Library's mission is to provide comprehensive resources and services in support of the research, teaching, and learning needs of the University community.



# Library Mission

To fulfill this mission, the Library makes a commitment to:

1. Understand the research, teaching, and learning needs of its users



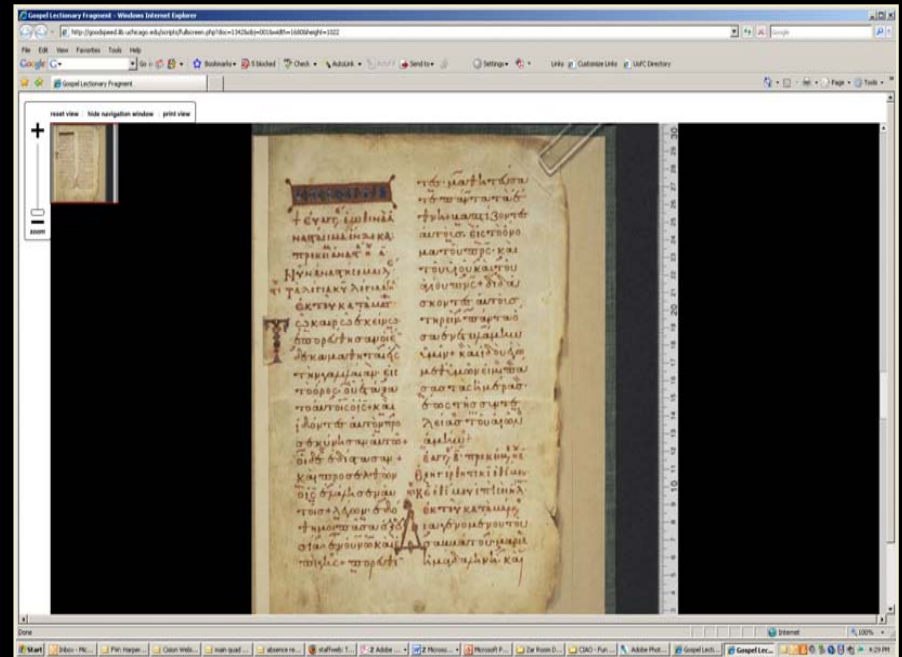


# Library Mission

2. Build collections and create tools to support research, teaching, and learning

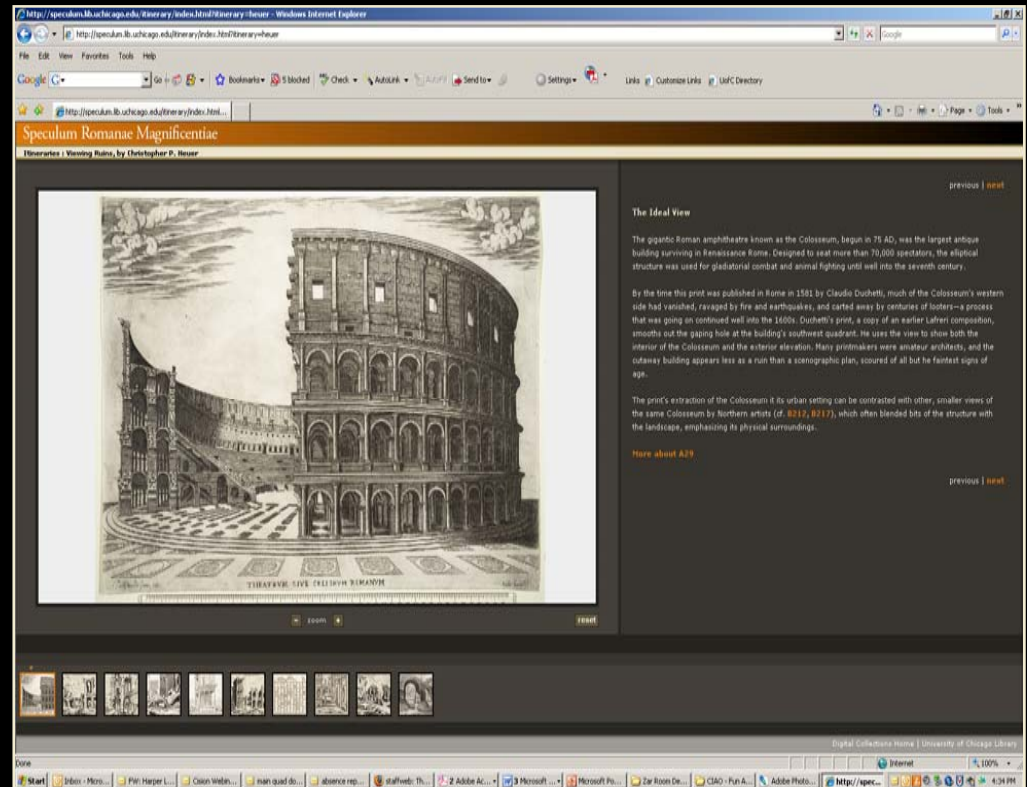


### 3. Provide access to and promote the discovery and use of local and external information resources



# Library Mission

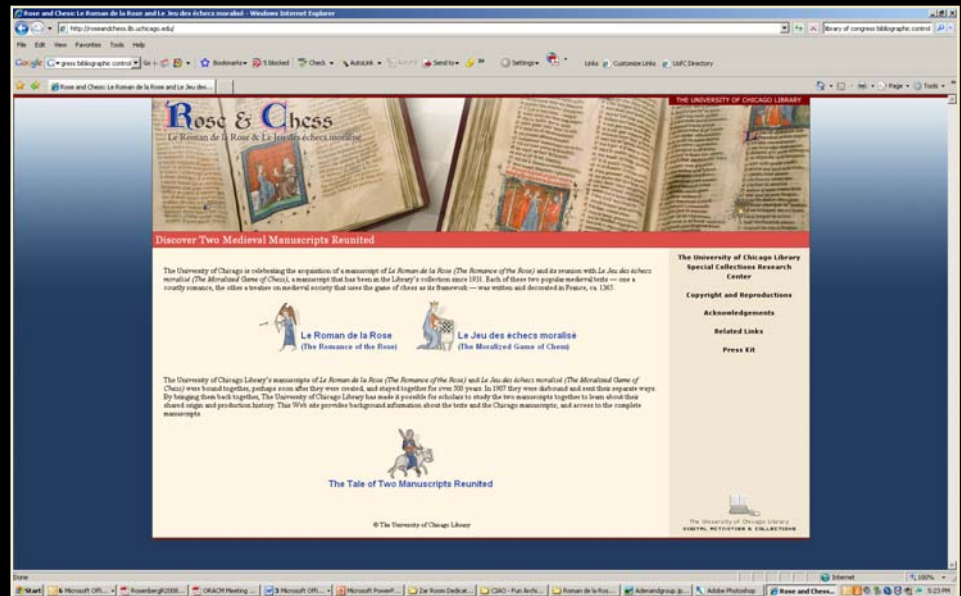
## 4. Ensure the preservation and long-lasting availability of Library collections and resources





# Library Mission

## 5. Create hospitable physical and virtual environments for study, teaching, and research;



# Library Mission

6. Collaborate with other members of the University to enrich the research and learning community





# Library Mission

## 7. Advance local, national, and international library and information initiatives

### *Library of Congress Working Group on Bibliographic Control*



# Library Mission

8. Develop, encourage, and sustain expertise, skill, commitment and an innovative spirit in its staff.



# Reconceptualizing the Mission

Trends in information technology, interdisciplinary research, scholarly publishing, and teaching and learning are giving libraries an opportunity to achieve greater centrality and impact.

<i>Traditional Roles</i>	→	<i>New Roles</i>
Custodian of infrastructure	→	Expert collaborator
Collections owner	→	Access provider
Space to build and preserve collections	→	Space for users to interact with information and with each other

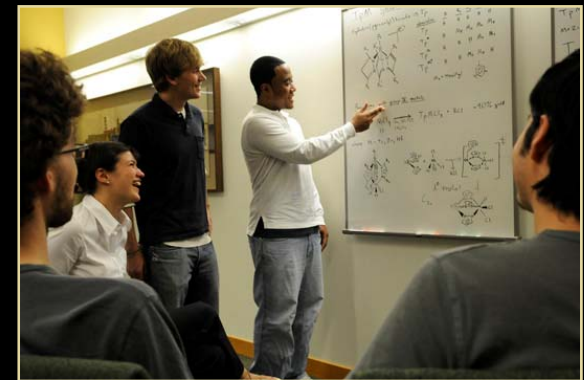


# Roles of the Library

## The Library as Resource



## The Library as Partner



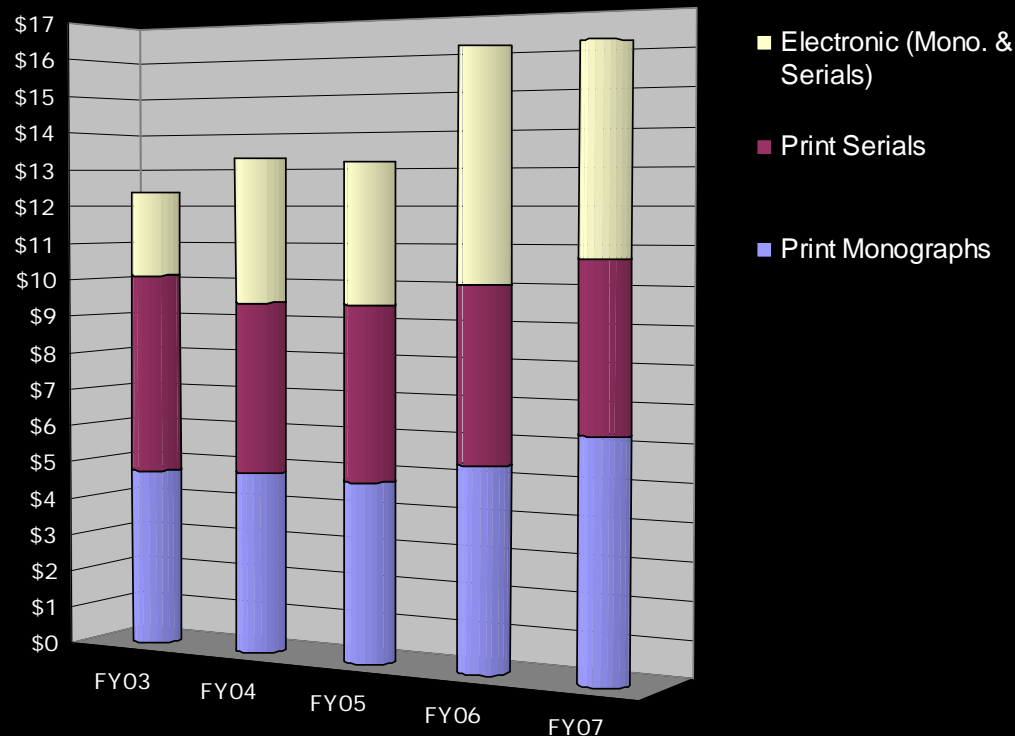
## The Library as Place

How do we narrow the expectational divide produced by the changing environment of the digital age?

# The Library as Resource: Collections

Investment in electronic collections  
increases...

Chicago Materials Budget, 2003-2007, in millions USD



...but physical collections remain  
significant

# The Library as Resource: Collections

- Electronic access and physical access complement and reinforce each other.

"High individual users of electronic research tools were high individual users of physical research tools and vice versa. There is no evidence whatever of substitution of electronic for print resources at the individual level. The two seem synergistic."

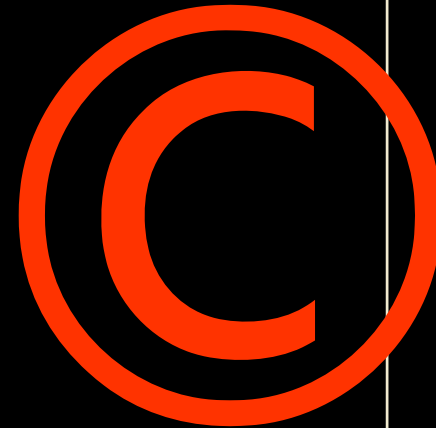
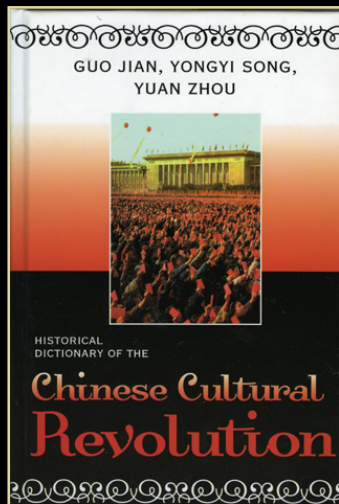
*Professor Andrew Abbott, "The University Library," May 2006*

- Mass digitization promotes discovery of collections.
- "Hidden collections" are exposed.



# The Library as Resource: Staff Expertise

- Subject knowledge
- Instruction and training
- Copyright, intellectual property
- Academic honesty



# The Library as Partner

## University Administration

- Institutional repositories (admin. records)
- Copyright/IP

## Other Libraries

- Consortia with peers
- Regional partnerships
- Sharing of expertise
- International bibliographic collaboration

## The University Library

## Faculty

- Institutional repositories (scholarly output)
- Digital collaborations
- Data archiving

## Students

- Class Librarians
- Library resource fairs
- Library-Student Resource Group

## IT

- Coursework tools
- Digital library projects
- IT/Library spaces

# The Library as Partner: Faculty

- Institutional repository
  - Archive the University's scholarly output
  - Further the open access movement
- Digital humanities collaboration
  - Project Bamboo
  - UNCAP (Uncovering New Chicago Archives Project)
- Science data archiving and service desk operation
  - Sloan Digital Sky Survey





# The Library as Partner: Students



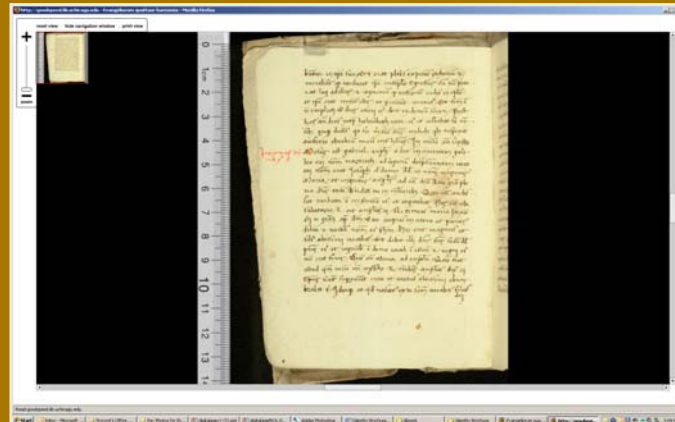
- New service models
  - Class Librarians
  - B.A. Thesis Resource Fair
- New communication avenues
  - Email, IM, Facebook
- Library-Student Resource Group
  - actively seeking student input



# The Library as Partner: IT

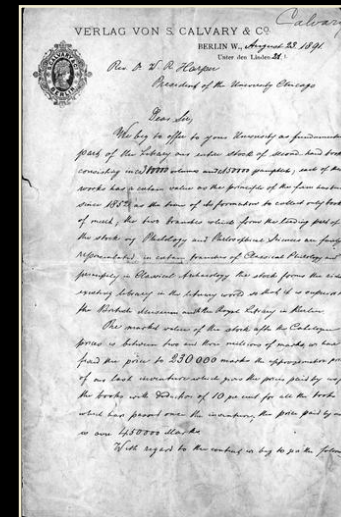
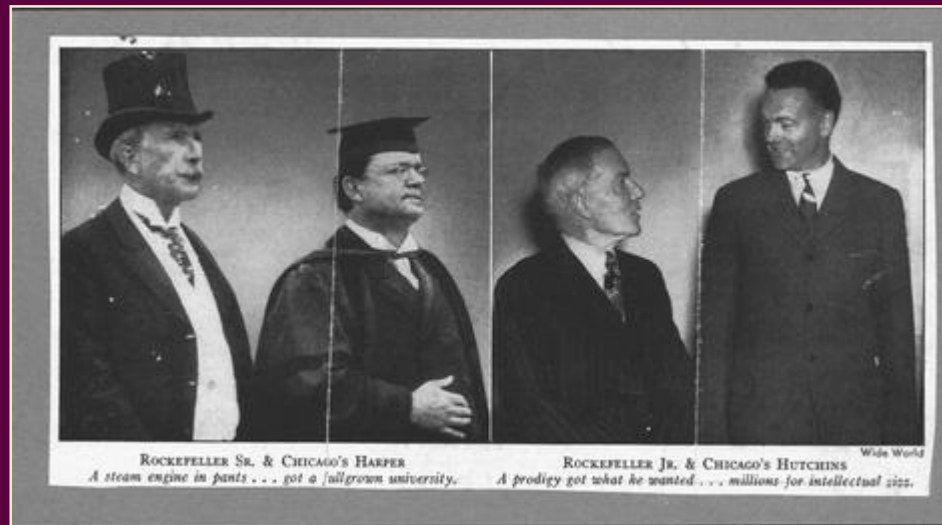


- Coursework tools
  - Blackboard
- IT uses of Library space
  - Digital Media Lab
- Digital library projects



# The Library as Partner: University Administration

- Institutional repository for administrative records
- Online Copyright Information Center
  - <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/copyrightinfo/index.html>



# The Library as Partner: Other Libraries

- Consortial partnerships
  - Google Book Project
  - Shared Digital Repository
- National/International bibliographic collaboration
  - BIBCO, NACO, SACO, CONSER
- LC Advisory on the Future of Bibliographic Control
- International sharing of expertise
  - Preserving Chinese rare materials in U.S.
- Regional partnerships: libraries, museums, archives
  - Black Metropolis Resource Consortium





# The Library as Place

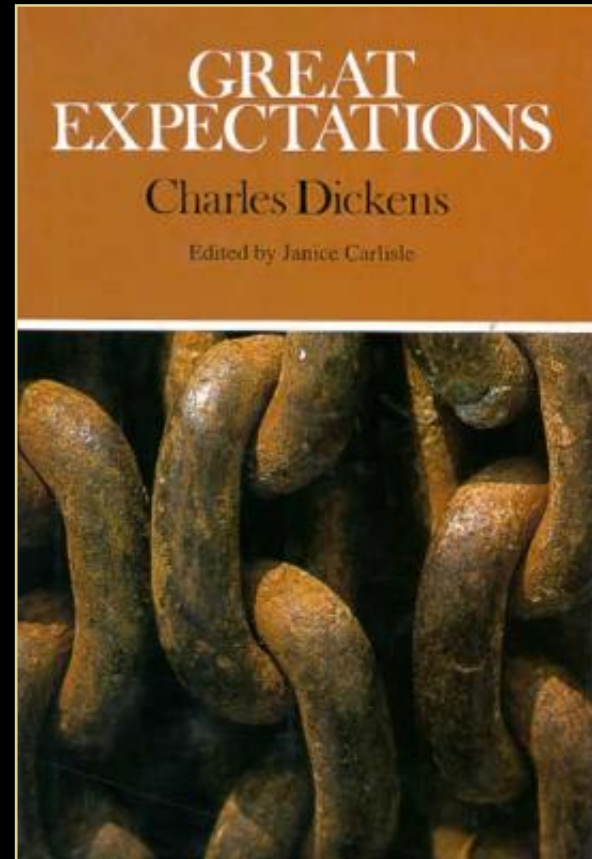
- The physical library – inspiring spaces where people interact with resources and with each other
- The virtual library – a gateway to information across institutional boundaries

Physical and virtual come together



# Narrowing the Expectational Divide

- User expectations
- University/Administration expectations
- Library expectations

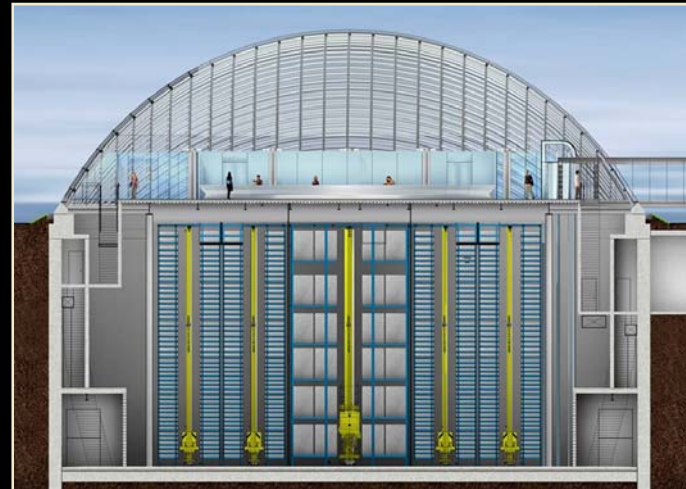


# The Mansueto Library: Considerations

- On-site addition vs. off-site building?
  - If on-site, harmony with campus aesthetic?
- Book storage:
  - open or closed stacks?
  - preservation and conservation of collections?

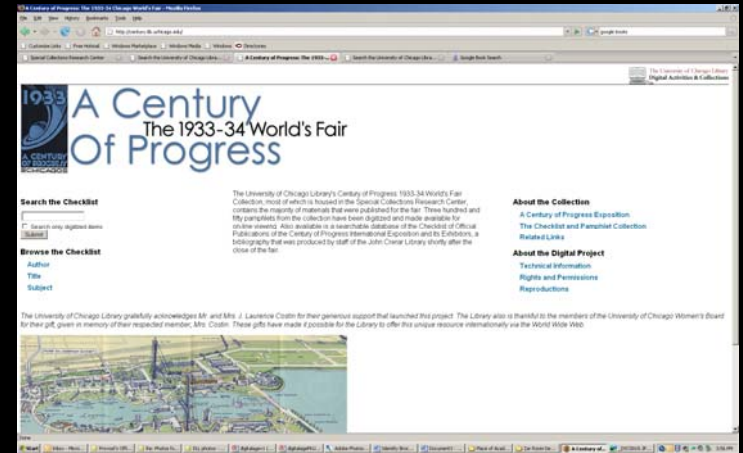


OR



# The Mansueto Library: Considerations

- Digitization
  - making print collections obsolete?
- Service
  - delayed vs. real-time collection access?
- Impact on existing library buildings
  - ...and Cost?





# The Mansueto Library: Serving the University

- Library as Intellectual Discriminator
  - Usage Statistics
    - 20% of items in Reg circulated at least once in the past eight years (3.4M charges)
    - 431,395 “only once” charges: cutting-edge research  
*Avoid 150 interlibrary loans a day*
  - Digitization
- Recruitment and Retention of top Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty
- Future Flexibility in existing Library buildings

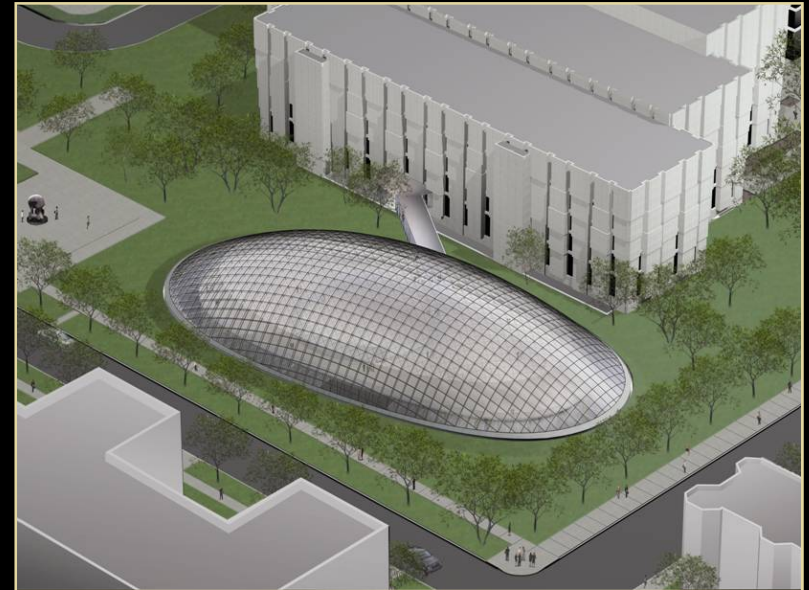
# The Mansueto Library: Design

- On-campus location

- stand-alone building connected to Regenstein Library via bridge

- Below ground storage facility

- 3.5m volume capacity in high-density automated shelving (total campus capacity: 10+ million volumes)
- minimize impact on campus green space



- Above-ground elliptical glass dome

- Reading Room and Circulation service center: real-time access to collections
- Preservation: Conservation and Digitization Laboratories

# The Mansueto Library: Exterior



# The Mansueto Library: Exterior

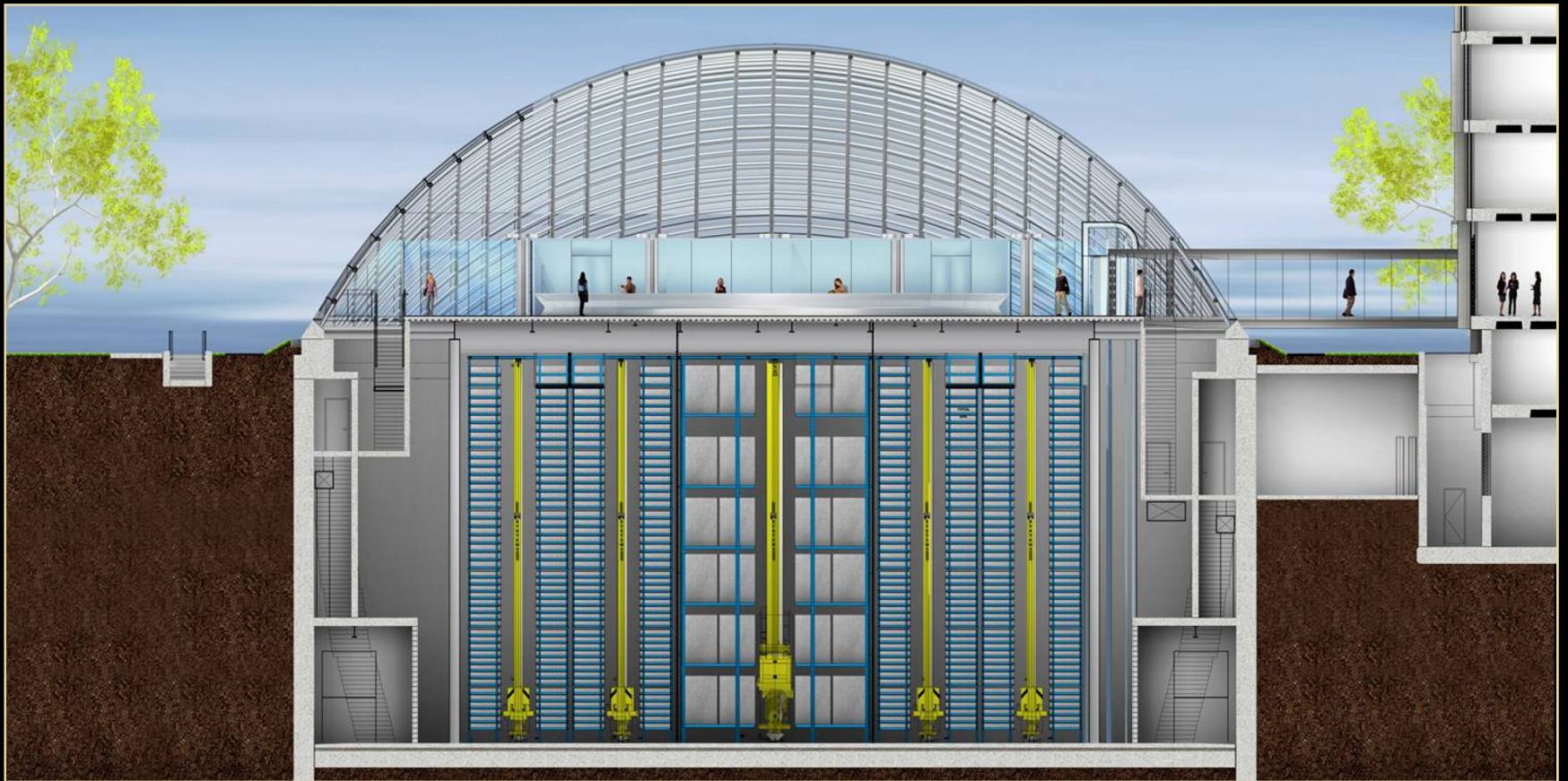




# Above Ground Plan



# Below Ground Storage Facility



# Bin and Shelf Rack Storage



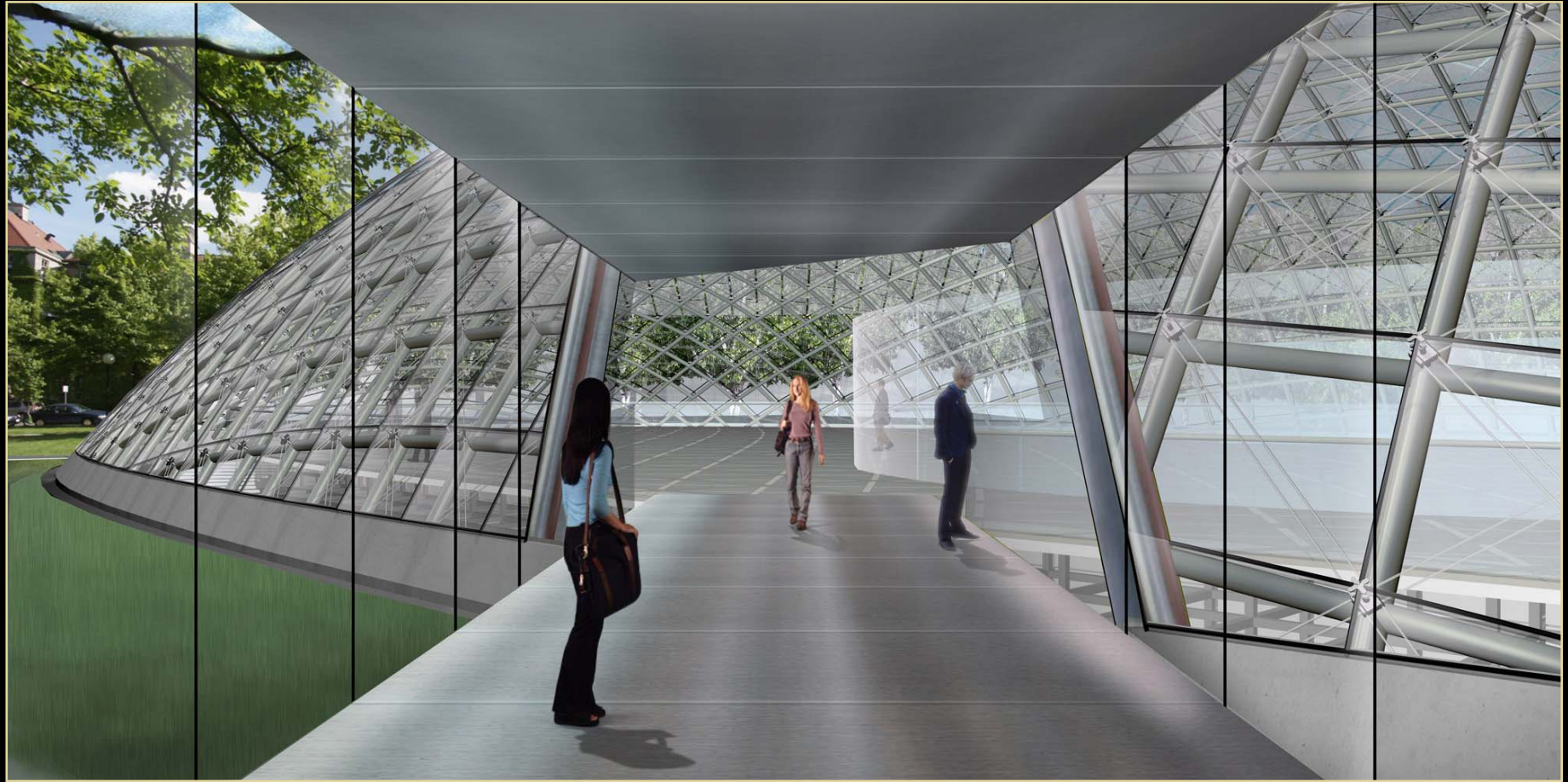


# Grand Reading Room





# The Library as Bridge



# Summary

- New Roles for Libraries
- Technology: both competitor and enabler
- New Partnerships and Interdependencies
- User-Driven Service Models



A Great Time to be a Librarian!

谢谢您      Thank you!

Questions?

Please visit us when in Chicago:

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