

Digital Technology, Traditional Values

Centennial Anniversary of Tsinghua University Library

November 2, 2012

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Milestones

- 1912 – School reading room
- 1919 – New library building
- 1930 – Collection of 300,000 volumes
- Today- Large library of 4 million items; 6 branches; and 10 departmental reading rooms

What Stays the Same?

- Mission: to support the University's mission of education and research

- Essential roles
 - Acquire
 - Organize
 - Preserve
 - Make accessible

Meeting the Nation's Needs

- Scientists
- Engineers
- Leaders in all fields of national importance

Digitization and New Roles

Acquisitions

- Before digital technology: Purchased materials
- After digital technology: Lease electronic materials

Describe

- Pre-digital: catalog cards
- Post-digital: Computer files and web searches
- Google search box

Preservation

- Pre-digital: conserved paper
- Post-digital: preserve digital files; migrate content

Access

- Pre-digital: Circulation; in-house use
- Post-digital: electronic access in the library, in the laboratory, at home

Core Principles

- Libraries support research and education
- Libraries preserve primary source materials
- Libraries collect works of enduring value
- Library services are as important as collections
- Libraries are a symbol of our aspirations

Changing, but Unchanged

- Change is not in the values that academic libraries serve, but in the audiences for whom they provide services

International Dunhuang Project (IDP)

- <http://idp.bl.uk>
- Collaboration among libraries, museums, and cultural institutions
- China's contributions: 75,000 images

International Collaboration

- Preservation, cataloging, and building a database of objects
- “Freely accessible to all”

American Memory

- <http://www.memory.loc.gov/>

The European Library

- <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/>

Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance

- <http://www.prdla.org>

Technology's Promise

- To help us build upon and add new elements to our enduring cultural heritage.

Thank you

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