3 Key Take-Aways

From *The Digital Landscape: A View from the Library* White Paper

Taylor & Francis Group
an **informa** business

In 2018 Taylor & Francis published the white paper titled: "The Digital Landscape: A View from the Library." This white paper focused on technological advances transforming the library. This snapshot will provide 3 key take-aways from the White Paper.

3 Key Takeaways:

1. Digital is Positive
2. Challenges of Digital Technology: Change and Budget
3. Opportunities of Digital Technology: Continuous Access

1

Digital is Positive

- For the past five to ten years there has been a positive reaction to the impact of digital developments on the library. It has facilitated the librarian's role as well as the user experience.
- Information is available at any time and place, at the click of a button, as is assistance from the library. The majority of librarians report sufficient support and engagement from their institution in response to the impact of new digital technology.
- There are positive impacts on discovery, collection development, developing new skills, relationships with colleagues, repurposing space, and investment in new equipment.

2

Challenges of Digital Technology:
Change and Budget

- Change
  - Librarians need new skills in a variety of areas.
  - Despite a general increase in library usage, librarians still face a challenge in marketing library services to their users. Students find Google quicker and easier, as discovery tools has yet to reach a comparable level of ease of use or efficacy of results.
  - Many librarians cite access issues as a major challenge, that often proves very time-consuming. On the back of digital developments, multiple and complicated vendor platforms have emerged, as well as complex purchasing models and restrictive licensing. Many platforms necessitate training for faculty and students, which adds to existing time pressures for librarians.

- Budget
  - In the face of shrinking budgets, staff with new digital skills and experienced library staff are relatively expensive, and are often unaffordable for libraries, who need to keep abreast of new developments. As it is, many libraries are experiencing a lack of sufficient staffing.

3

Opportunities of Digital Technology:

Continuous Access

- Digital technology creates opportunities for greater collaboration and discovery.
- Creates opportunities for librarians and students to work in a remote environment.
- Resources and support are available anywhere at any time.

Conclusion

Interested in learning more about The Digital Landscape? Download the full white paper "The Digital Landscape: A View from the Library." In addition, visit the Taylor & Francis Resources for Librarians page to learn more about our commitment to the librarian-publisher relationship.

References

The contents of this snapshot were derived from a white paper entitled, "The Digital Landscape: A View from the Library."

For permission to reproduce this snapshot for educational purposes, please contact Leah Chaise – leahchaise@taylorandfrancis.com.

2