



# Fate of Chemistry Branch Libraries: Onward toward 2015

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# Today's Talk

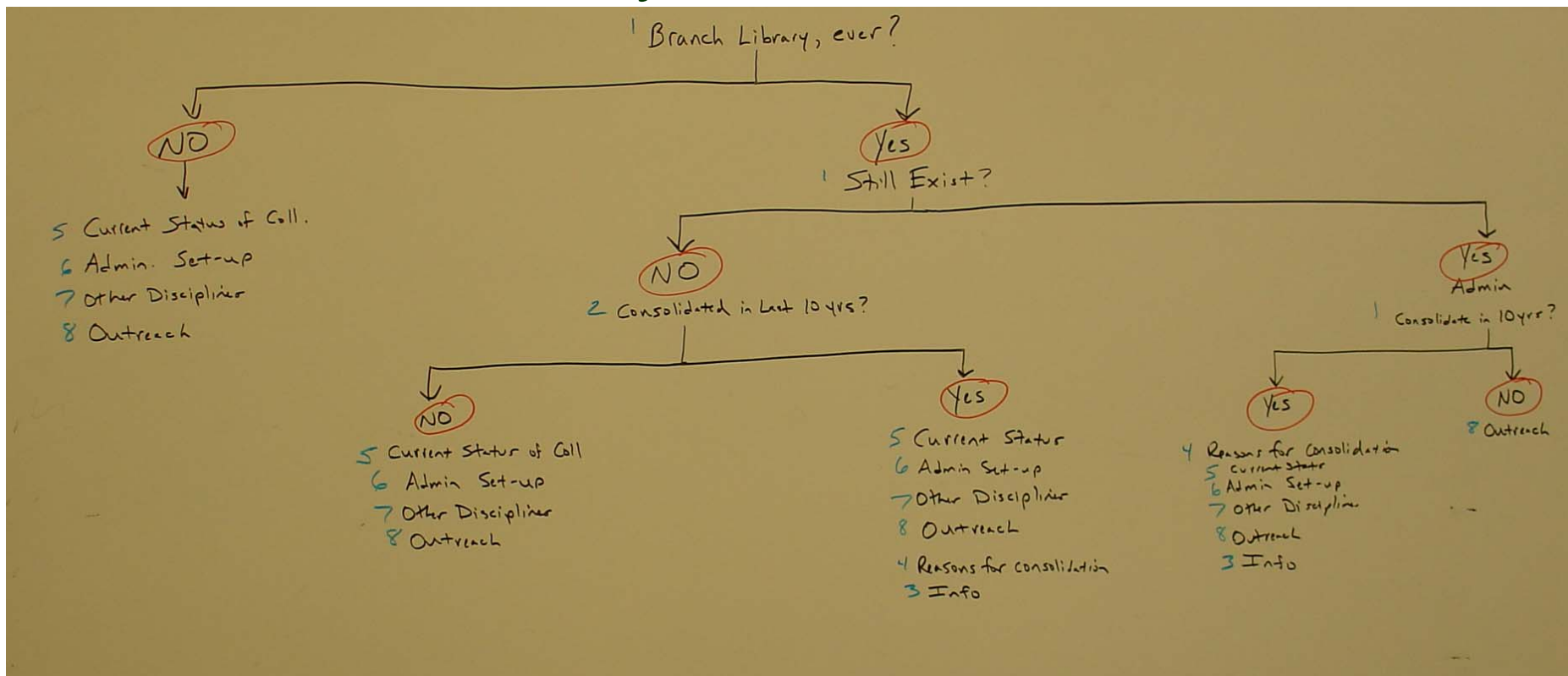
- Background
  - Implementation of the survey
  - Results
  - Conclusions
- and some tips along the way...

# Why do this survey?

- Chemistry Enterprise 2015
- Nothing similar out there / Curiosity
- Purdue is considering combining libraries
- Others are interested in the results

# Structure of the Survey

- Modified questions from ACRL Survey
- Decision tree style



# Implementation of the Survey

- Paper surveys sent to Deans/Directors of 113 ARL institutions
  - Excluded non-academic ARL institutions
  - Surveyed Canadian academic institutions
  - Simultaneous “heads-up” from my Dean at ARL Directors Meeting
- Email reminder after a month and a half with survey as attachment



# Where will chemistry libraries be in 2015?

- In 2015, only half of existing chemistry libraries in ARL institutions will still exist as they are today
- Many varieties of consolidation
- With interdisciplinary research and improved efficiency major factors in consolidation, opportunities arise for many library systems

# Status of Chemistry Libraries?

- Response: 85 institutions out of 113 (75%)
- How many have EVER had a chem library?
  - 44 institutions (52%)
- How many exist today?
  - 19 institutions (22%)



# Rates of Closure/Consolidation?

- Of the 25 that have ceased to exist, 6 have done so in the last 10 years
- In the next 10 years, of the 19 that are left, 7 will cease to exist



# In 10 years, who is left?

- And another 3 out of 19 will most likely be decreased in size.
- Leaving 9 chemistry libraries “unchanged”
  - Conversely, a little over half of all existing Chemistry Libraries in ARL institutions will see some change in the next ten years. (Most of it significant.)

# What **were** the reasons for change?

Last 10 years (n = 6), 2 or more responses

	# of Institutions
Improve efficiency	4
↑ Interdisciplinary research	4
Reduce staffing costs	3
Insufficient staff for chem lib	3
↑ Space for chem collection	3
Chem dept needed space	2
To offer new services	2
↑ Hours of service	2
Best way to upgrade tech	2
Reorganization of admin structure	2

# What **are** the reasons for change?

Next 10 years (n = 6), 2 or more responses

	# of Institutions
To offer new services	4
Improve efficiency	4
↑ Interdisciplinary research	4
Reduce staffing costs	3
↑ Hours of service	3
Decline in on-site usage	2
Best way to upgrade tech	2
To improve visibility	2
Changes in library's mission	2

# What are the reasons for change?

Combined (n = 12), 4 or more responses

	# of Institutions
Improve efficiency	8
↑ Interdisciplinary research	8
Reduce staffing costs	6
To offer new services	6
↑ Hours of service	5
Insufficient staff for chem lib	4
Best way to upgrade tech	4



# What was unique in the last 10 years?

- To increase space for the chemistry collection (3 institutions said it then)

# What is unique in the **next** 10 years?

- Changes to the library's/libraries' mission  
(2 institutions)
- Changes to the university's mission  
(1 institution)
- No institution said:
  - To increase usage of the chemistry collection
  - To decrease the size of the chemistry collection

# How were/will they be funded?

	<b>Last 10 Yrs n = 4</b>	<b>Next 10 Yrs n = 4</b>	<b>Combined n = 8</b>
No funding	1	0	1
Bonds	1	1	2
Endowments	0	0	0
Private Donors	3	2	5
Corporate Donors	2	1	3
Government	3	2	5

# Where did they go the last 10 yrs?

- 1 was consolidated into a new building
- 3 were consolidated into an existing building
  - 2 into a central/main library
  - 1 into an existing natural sciences library
- 2 were consolidated into an existing building with additional renovation/expansion
  - 1 was formerly the Humanities and Social Sciences Library after it received a new building
  - 1 was formerly the Undergraduate Library, both now occupy the same building, but physically separated





# Where are the chem libraries going?

- 4 will be consolidated into a new building
- 2 will be consolidated into an existing building
  - 1 into a central/main library
  - 1 into an existing natural sciences library
- 1 will be consolidated into an existing building with additional renovation/expansion

# Lessons Learned

- Expansion/consolidation can be tied to the construction of a storage facility (2 instances)
- Important to keep support staff involved and informed
- New services offered/considered: Book and article delivery service, transitional office hours while library is constructed, improved web presence, rotating new book shelf within each department.

# Benefits Realized

- Integration of journals into book collection
- Consolidated journal runs
- Library could be open “110 hrs vs. 40 hrs + keys”
- Access and Technical Services policies, roles, and staff can be shared
- Department may want some of your space right away, but moving in stages is a good thing

# Where do we go from here?

- With proliferation of online resources and considerations of space usage, focus on:
  - Instruction
  - Outreach
  - New services
- Be prepared for significant changes ahead...
  - ...& learn from those who have gone before us.