

***Information transformation:  
How will large-scale trends affect polar libraries?***

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Decades after the internet and digital publishing promised an “Information Age,” we are beginning to see real transformations in the nature of information, of libraries, and of human interactions. This paper will outline a number of patterns beginning to be felt in the broader context of library science:

- Social and ubiquitous computing.
- The decoupling of data from publication.
- The decoupling of librarians from libraries.
- Changing value of libraries to users; challenges posed by economic and social forces.

I argue that the internet and digital publishing changed how we handle information but left the nature of that information fundamentally untouched. These new trends are more disruptive and transformative, because they change the very nature of information and of how people work with it. After a 15-minute introduction, I would like to lead a discussion about how these trends might work themselves out in our more specialized context of polar libraries. Are we seeing pressures to change or redefine ourselves and our value? Are we working with data in new ways? Are we suffering from information overload, like everyone else? Most importantly, how can we anticipate and take advantage of these transformations?