Cataloging Redesigned:

Is Outsourcing Still a *Dirty Word*???

Amy B. Parsons, MLIS, Georgia Library Conference, Columbus Georgia, October 4, 2017

Courtright Memorial Library

Schwob Memorial Library

Agenda

- Opinions in the current literature
- Outsourcing 1997-2017 - The Book.
- Comments from our peers
- Ideas to think about
- Comments/Questions

Outsourcing defined:

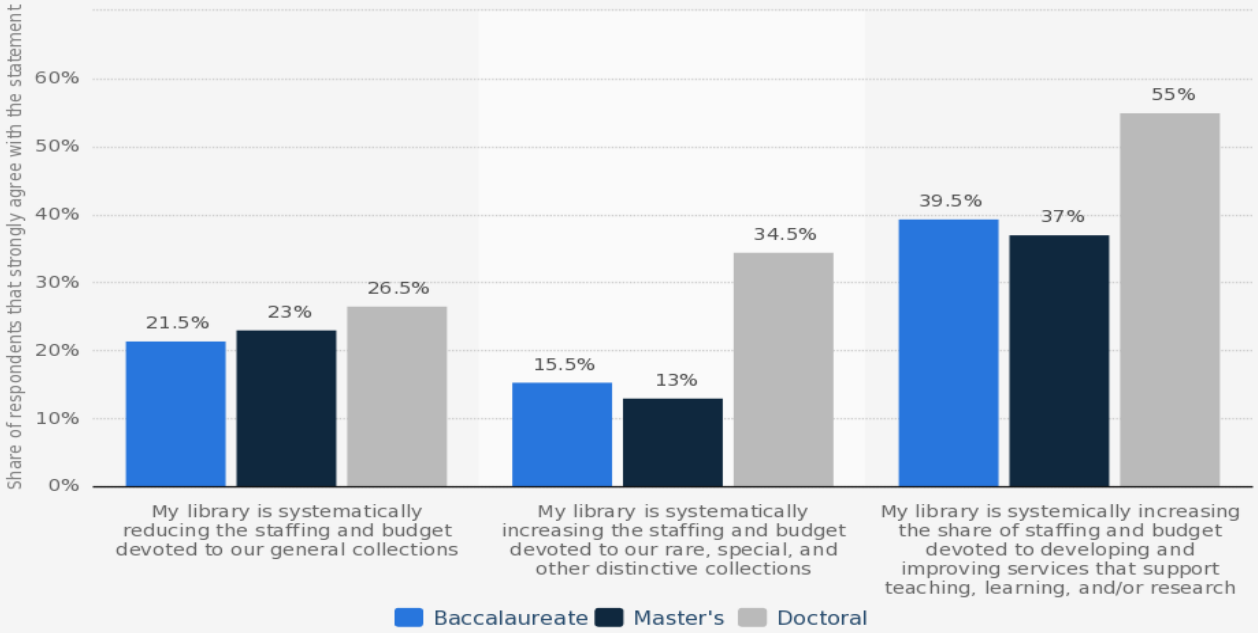
“The action or practice of obtaining goods or services by contract from outside sources.” (Oxford English Dictionary)

"outsourcing, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 26 June 2017.

Outsourcing Defined:

"Outsourcing involves transfer to a third party, outside vendor, contractor, independent workers, or provider to perform certain work-related tasks involving recurring internal activities that are not core to the mission of the library." (American Library Association)

Ongoing trends in budget priorities at academic libraries in United States in 2016, by institution type



Sources
Ithaka S+R; Statista estimates
© Statista 2017

Additional Information:
United States; 2016; 722 Respondents; Academic library directors and deans

statista

Outsourcing in the Literature

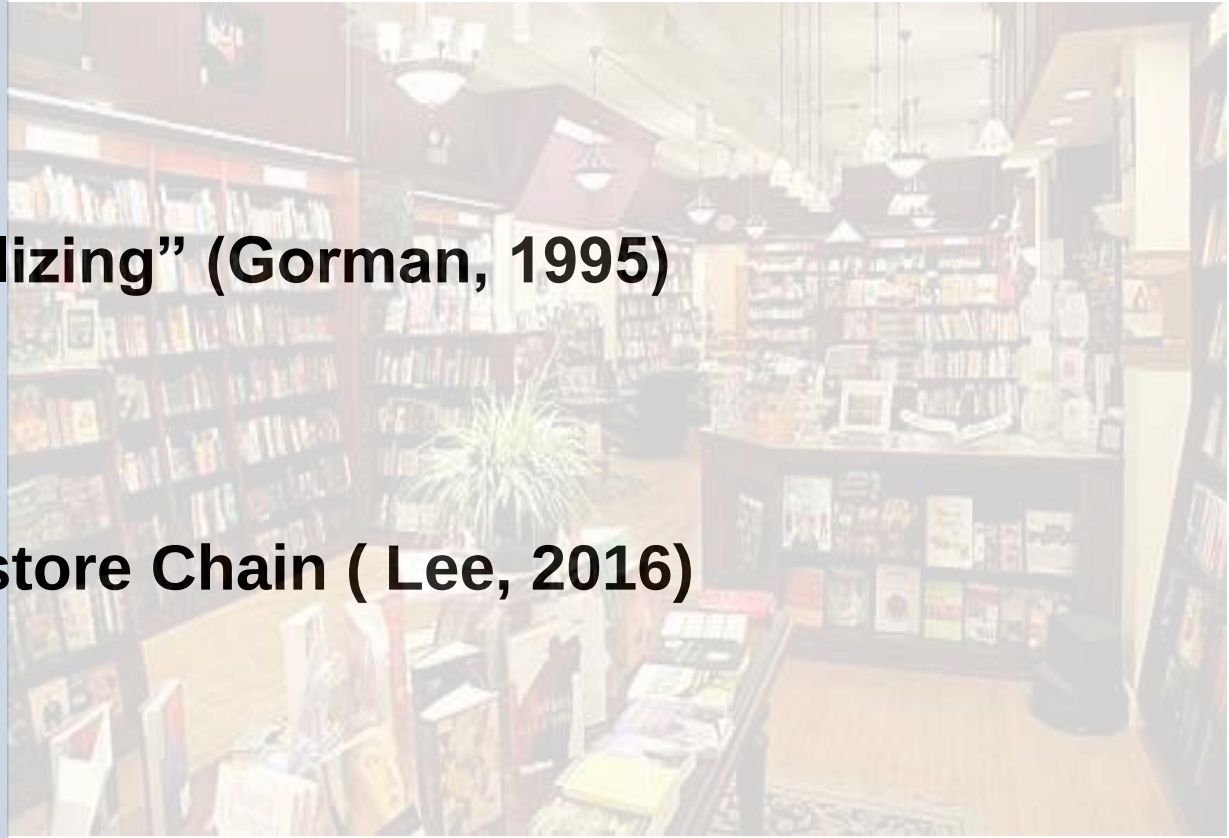
“The argument that cataloging is not a core function is trending…”

“Local collections, special collections preserve the individuality of a library’s catalog for the present and the future….” (Ayers, 2003)

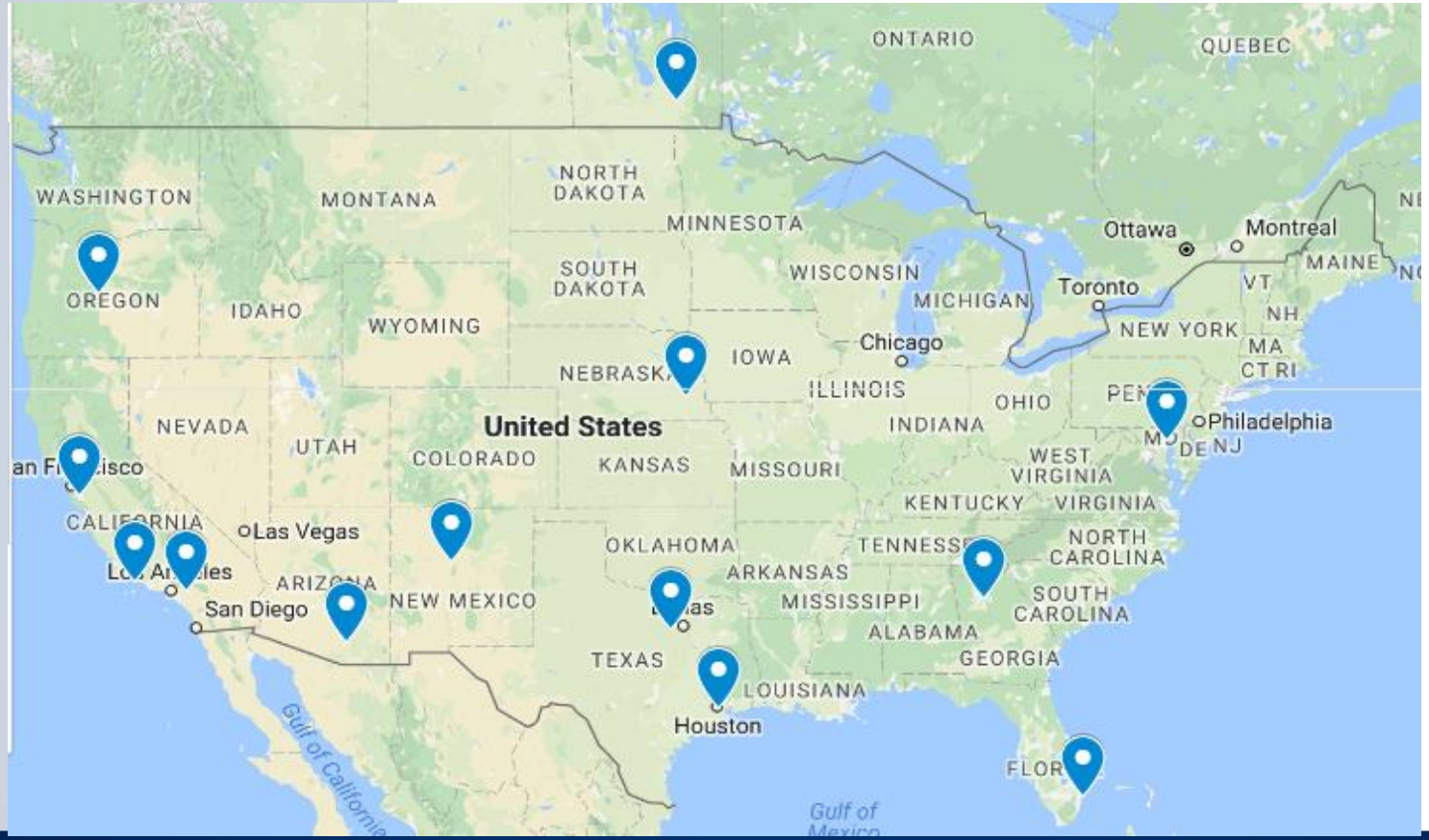
Outsourcing must be done right the first time…
Communication with the vendor must be straightforward…
(Jiang, 1998)

“Deprofessionalizing” (Gorman, 1995)

Library = Bookstore Chain (Lee, 2016)



Zombrary Apocalypse???



COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

In 1997:

Authority Control, copy cataloging , physical processing and record enhancement (table of contents data)

Original Cataloging, scores, foreign language materials

Brand new libraries with out of the box new collections

Insourcing - using overtime hours

2017: Twenty years later:

Does your library still outsource any/all cataloging/metadata work?

What part of your cataloging /metadata is outsourced?

New Print Books

Ebooks

Donations

Foreign Language materials

Physical processing of materials

Redesigning our title

Metadata Librarian
Metadata Analyst
Library Specialists
Library Coordinators

Other titles?

Comments from Current Catalogers:

“The danger is in assuming that *everything* can be outsourced, or that the library doesn't need any catalogers onsite.”

“Overall it was a triumph for our department and a demonstration of how outsourcing was a poor substitute for the type and quality of work we do in house…”

“ ...I'd say outsourcing is possible, but expect to have in-house staff around to take care of the odds and ends…”

…”We continue to develop the relationships we have with our vendor partners in order to improve service and accessibility of our collections.”

…”We do have to keep an eye on the vendor, though, because weirdness slips into the records at times.”

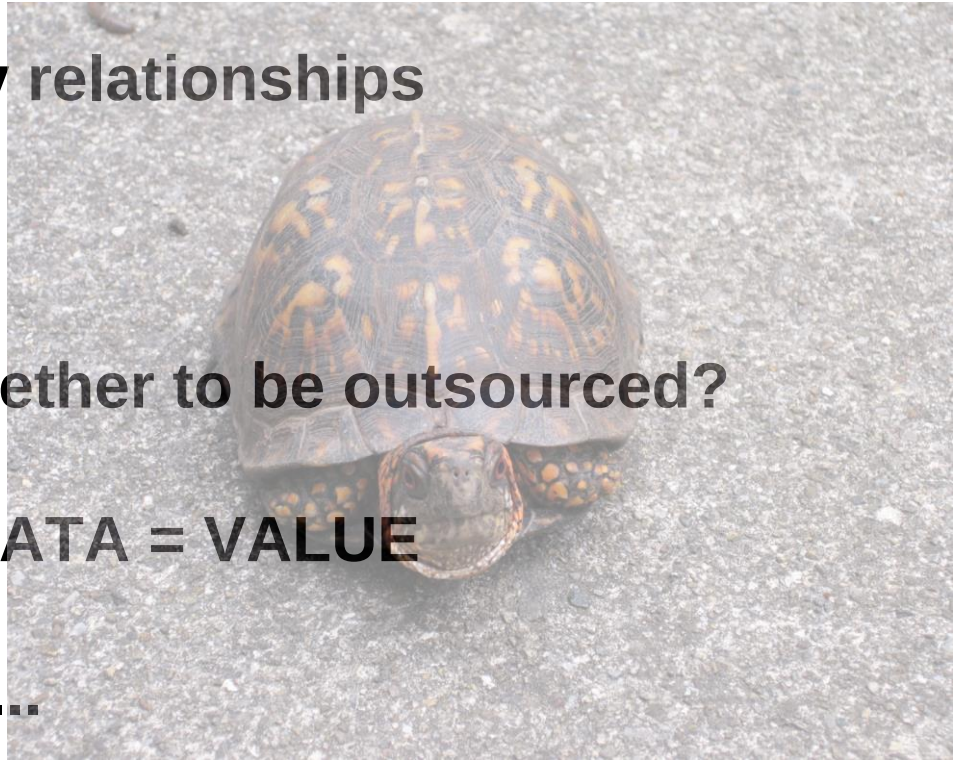
Functional vendor-library relationships

Communicate with staff

What can be bundled together to be outsourced?

Return on investment - DATA = VALUE

Ideas for future research...



Questions/Comments?

Thank You!!

http://columbusstate.libguides.com/GLC2017