The movement from inner to outer circle is fueled by technology and environmental change, and guided by demand and mission.
THE TRANSFORMATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES: A guide to the Diagram

The center circle (Past) shows the library as custodian of physical, locally owned and locally curated collections that are discoverable through local discovery tools and serviced and delivered in local, physical environments.

The library as seen in the middle circle (Present) builds on the center circle and expands the library's resources to include physical and digital forms; local collections are enriched by collaboratively-built and co-owned collections; discoverability and access are both physical and virtual; services are performed in physical and virtual environments; perpetuity is ensured through a combination of local, vended, and collective solutions.

The outer circle (Future) builds on the hybrid environment of the middle cycle with added emphasis on digital forms and collaboratively-built collections. Discovery is ubiquitous, access is seamless, services are increasingly virtual. Libraries are integrated learning spaces. Collaborative solutions are the norm.

The movement from inner to outer circle is fueled by technology and environmental change, and guided by demand and mission. Increasingly, changes in how libraries carry out their mission change our understanding of the mission itself.

The traditional roles of the library: collections, discovery, access, service, and perpetuity are echoed throughout the circles, but the lines between these roles are blurring and increasingly, the mission of the library is better described by the circle as a whole than by its component parts.

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