President’s Meeting 2018
Glyn Moody
Dark Ages 2.0
Leading the Way: Libraries as Motors of Change
dark ages 2.0...and a sniglet

glyn moody
dark times

- we live in dark times
dark times

- we live in dark times
  - not political problems on both sides of the Atlantic
dark times

- we live in dark times
  - not political problems on both sides of the Atlantic
  - not referring to even more serious environmental problems
dark times

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  - not political problems on both sides of the Atlantic
  - not referring to even more serious environmental problems
- dark times
  - for the Internet
  - for learning
  - for knowledge
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- dark times
  - for the Internet
  - for learning
  - for knowledge

- dark ages 2.0
dark ages 1.0

- you've been here before
dark ages 1.0

- you've been here before
- for a thousand years, mediaeval libraries played a crucial role in gathering, protecting and transmitting core knowledge
dark ages 1.0

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- for a thousand years, mediaeval libraries played a crucial role in gathering, protecting and transmitting core knowledge
- librarians saved civilisation itself
dark ages 1.0

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- for a thousand years, mediaeval libraries played a crucial role in gathering, protecting and transmitting core knowledge
- librarians saved civilisation itself
- you've done it once
- you can do it again
- you need to do it again
why?

- key facets of your world under attack
why?

- key facets of your world under attack
- truth
- expertise
- knowledge
- sharing
- privacy
truth is under attack

- in the past, we discussed the contours of truth
- we have moved beyond that, to the idea that truth doesn't matter
truth is under attack

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- exemplified by so-called "fake news" - misinformation, lies
- Rashomon world
expertise under attack

- articulated most clearly and brutally during the 2016 Brexit debate in the UK
- UK government minister: "I think that the people of this country have had enough of experts"
expertise under attack

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- UK government minister: "I think that the people of this country have had enough of experts"
- symptomatic of larger contempt
- implies we've had enough of skilled surgeons and aeronautical engineers
knowledge under attack

- knowledge is a commons
- belongs to the world
knowledge under attack

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- academic publishers are trying to enclose knowledge
- turn it into a luxury product
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- betrayal of the world's poor who depend on the commons
sharing under attack

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sharing under attack

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- in the EU, Art. 11 of the proposed Copyright Directive will stop sites sharing tiny snippets
- Art. 13 will require major sites to filter every upload, or to obtain a licence for all files
- just the latest in a constant series of attacks: SOPA, ACTA, TPP
privacy under attack

- by copyright laws
privacy under attack

- by copyright laws
- by governments
  - NSA, GCHQ, BND
privacy under attack

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- by governments
  - NSA, GCHQ, BND
- by companies
  - Facebook, Google,
  - 3rd-party trackers
privacy under attack

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- by companies
  - Facebook, Google,
  - 3rd-party trackers
- by devices
  - mobiles, Internet of Things (IoT)
privacy fightback

- digital technology key tool for libraries
privacy fightback

- digital technology key tool for libraries
- make privacy the default
  - use virtual private networks (VPNs)
  - use free software - Firefox; Thunderbird + PGP; GNU/Linux; Tor (The Onion Router); Signal
  - demo it, promote it, distribute it
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- no IoT devices
sharing fightback

- explain why mothers are always right
  - not: "it's good to license intellectual monopolies"
  - but: "it's good to share"
sharing fightback

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- champion the public domain
  - because the public domain is the ultimate virtual library
- explain the benefits of using Creative Commons (CC) licences
knowledge fightback

- promote "pure" open access
knowledge fightback

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  - support preprints: research shows absolutely minimal difference between preprint and "published"
  - drop support for "pyrite" OA: "fool's gold" OA is vanity OA
knowledge fightback

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- publish open access
knowledge fightback

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- publish open access
  - re-format preprints
  - create overlay journals linking to preprints
  - open source software solutions
expertise fightback

- libraries are expertise made visible
expertise fightback

- libraries are expertise made visible
- as librarians, you are promulgating expertise every day
- your work is an affirmation of it
expertise fightback

- libraries are expertise made visible
- as librarians, you are promulgating expertise every day
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- underline this fact when recommending resources: that you recommend them *for* the expertise they encapsulate
- advocates for expertise
truth fightback

- not clear how best to tackle this
- no solution, but two (partial) meta-solutions
truth fightback

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- no solution, but two (partial) meta-solutions
- like-minded organisations to collaborate on this
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- like-minded organisations to collaborate on this
  - purveyors of truth
- ask experts
  - ask librarians
- imminent question and answer session
this is not dark ages 1.0
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- closing the library doors and hoping *no one* will find you, will not work this time around
this is not dark ages 1.0

- closing the library doors and hoping *no one* will find you, will not work this time around
- now you need to throw open the library doors, encourage *everyone* to find you
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- closing the library doors and hoping *no one* will find you, will not work this time around
- now you need to throw open the library doors, encourage *everyone* to find you
- above all, you need to move beyond passive defence of truth, knowledge, learning, and the Internet, become proactive champions of these
extreme situations

- extreme remedies
extreme situations

- extreme remedies
- extreme sniglets
  - any word that doesn't appear in the dictionary, but should
extreme situations

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- extreme sniglets
  - any word that doesn't appear in the dictionary, but should
- what could be more extreme than the sniglet "unlibrarianliness"?
extreme situations

- extreme remedies
- extreme sniglets
  - any word that doesn't appear in the dictionary, but should
- what could be more extreme than the sniglet "unlibrarianliness"?
- but that sniglet is what we urgently require from you in order to tackle new dark ages
be the sniglet

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