



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

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 - not political problems on both sides of the Atlantic



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 - not referring to even more serious environmental problems



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- dark times
 - for the Internet
 - for learning
 - for knowledge



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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



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- librarians saved civilisation itself



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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



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- Rashomon world



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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



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 - generating excessive profit margins, typically 30-40%
- betrayal of the world's poor who depend on the commons



sharing under attack

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- sharing lies at the heart of the library, and of the Internet
 - 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
- 
- A small, dark silhouette of a tree is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping the text of the last bullet point.

privacy under attack

- by copyright laws



privacy under attack

- by copyright laws
- by governments
 - NSA, GCHQ, BND



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 - NSA, GCHQ, BND
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 - 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



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 - not: "it's good to license intellectual monopolies"
 - but: "it's good to share"



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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



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 - support preprints: research shows absolutely minimal difference between preprint and "published"
 - drop support for "pyrite" OA:
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- publish open access
 - re-format preprints
 - create overlay journals linking to preprints
 - open source software solutions

expertise fightback

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



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- libraries are expertise made visible
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- underline this fact when recommending resources: that you recommend them **for** the expertise they encapsulate
- advocates for expertise



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- no solution, but two (partial) meta-solutions



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 - purveyors of truth
- ask experts
 - ask librarians
- imminent question and answer session



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- 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
- 
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extreme situations

- extreme remedies



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- extreme sniglets
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- what could be more extreme than the sniglet "unlibrarianliness"?



extreme situations

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 - 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

glyn.moody@gmail.com

@glynmoody on Twitter
+glynmoody on Google+

