

ALA RUSA/STARS  
Cooperative Collections  
27 June 2010

# Shared Print Collections: *leveraging collective infrastructure*

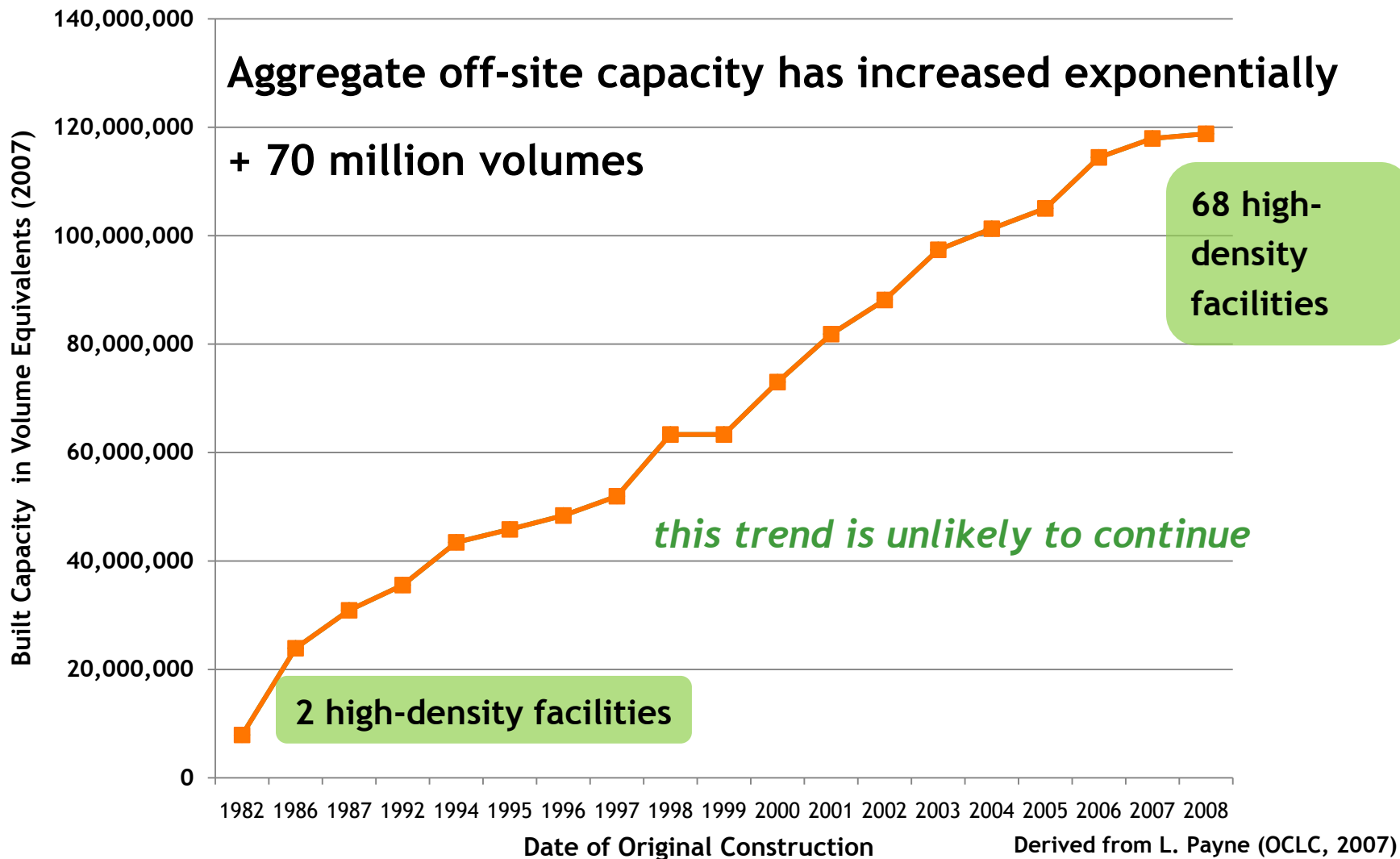
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# Growth of US Library Storage Infrastructure



# Aggregate Preservation Resource: Black Box?

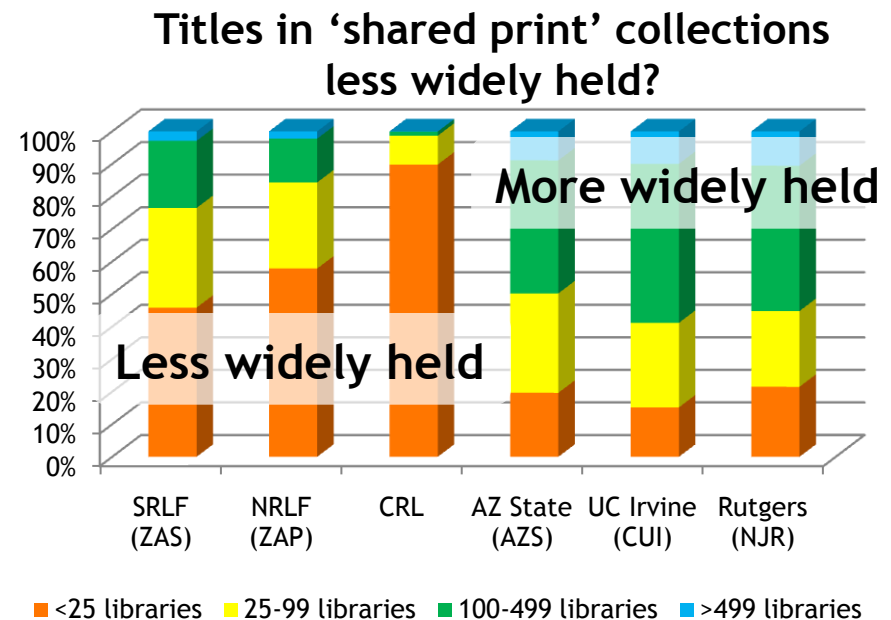


Of 68 storage facilities identified in Payne (OCLC, 2007):

- 2 are visible in WorldCat today: UC NRLF & UC SRLF
- Proxies: CRL, LC?

Among 9 ASERL storage collections profiled in 2004:

- 80% of monographic titles held in a single storage facility



# Shared Print value proposition(s)



- 1) Ensures long-term survivability of 'last copies' and low-use print journals and books

*Extension of traditional repository function; limited motivation to subsidize*

- 2) Enables reduction in redundant inventory for moderately and widely-held titles, facilitating redirection of library resources toward more distinctive service portfolio

*Strategic reserve provides a hedge against disruption in the marketplace, rapid fluctuations in scholarly value & function of print; provides tangible value to participant*

# Inertia: a hidden cost driver?

Cost Element	Shelving Model			
	Open Stack	High Density	Hybrid (10 years in open stack)	Hybrid (20 years in open stack)
Construction	108.51	16.40	32.36	43.21
Main				8.99
Clea				9
Elec				
Base				5.6
Circ				7.25
Total	141.89	28.77	50.98	66.43
Annual Average	4.26	0.86	1.53	1.99

*Cost of management decreases as collections move off-site; the sooner they leave, the greater the savings*

Table 1: Our best storage cost estimates (in 2009 US\$)

*If 13% of on-campus collection circulates, more than 80% of the expenditure on locally managed collections delivers ‘symbolic’ value*

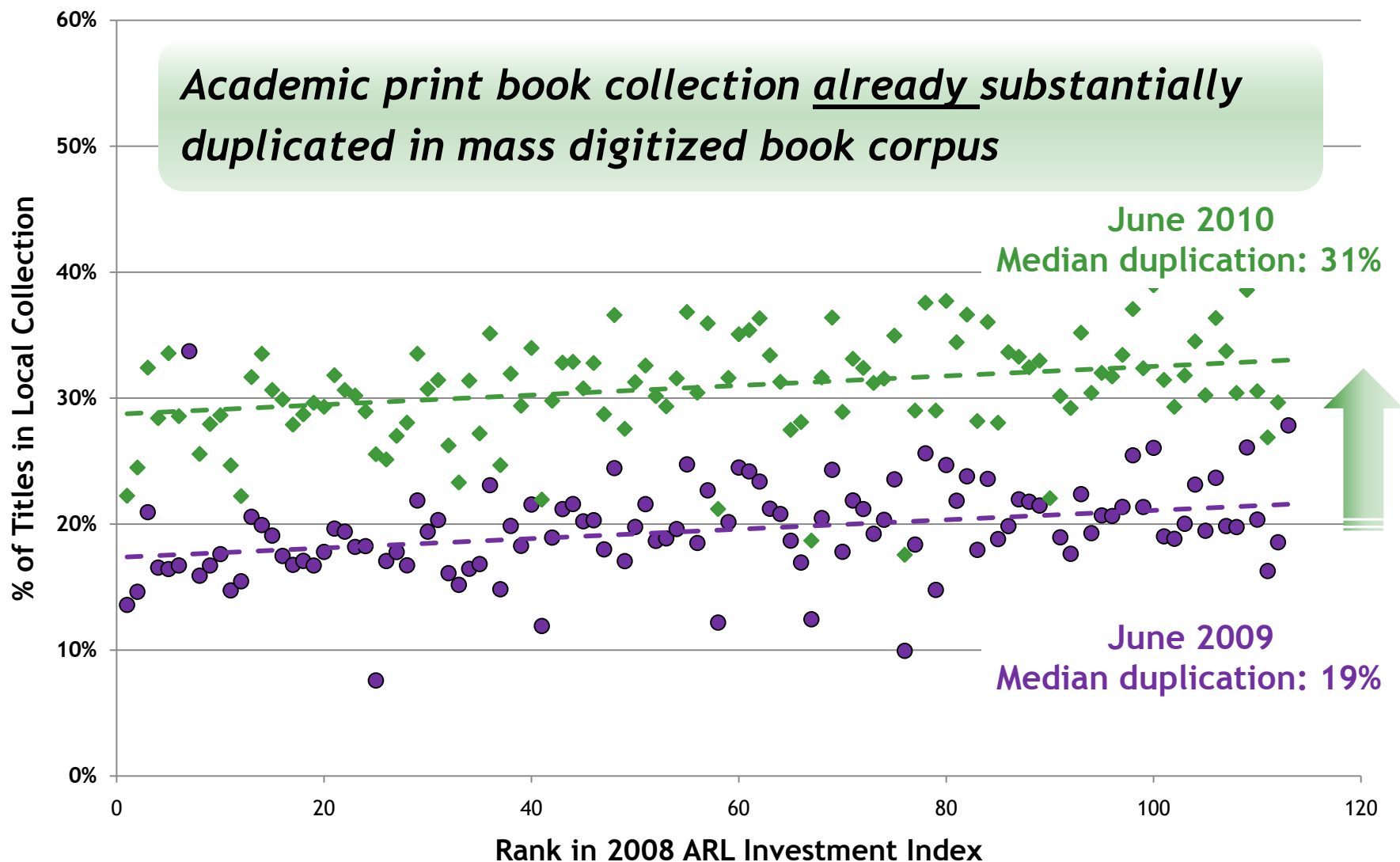
Source: P. Courant and M. Nielson (CLIR, 2010)

Medium	Discounted Life Cycle Cost (per unit)	Total Life Cycle Cost (per unit)	Purchase Cost (per unit)	Total Cost / Purchase Cost (per unit)
Monographs	\$ 119.56	\$ 343.03	\$ 47.78	718%
Current serials	\$ 634.91	801.87	590.97	134
Mi	<p><b>“monographs are overwhelmingly the largest source or driver of library costs . . . <i>If research libraries want to control their costs, they must work to control and reduce the life cycle costs of maintaining their monograph collections</i>”</b></p> <p>Lawrence , Connaway &amp; Brigham (2001)</p>			
C				
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Sound recordings	\$ 22.64	24.77	6.80	219
Video & Film	\$ 128.95	107.50	15.70	307
Computer files	\$ 0.17	0.07	0.01	331

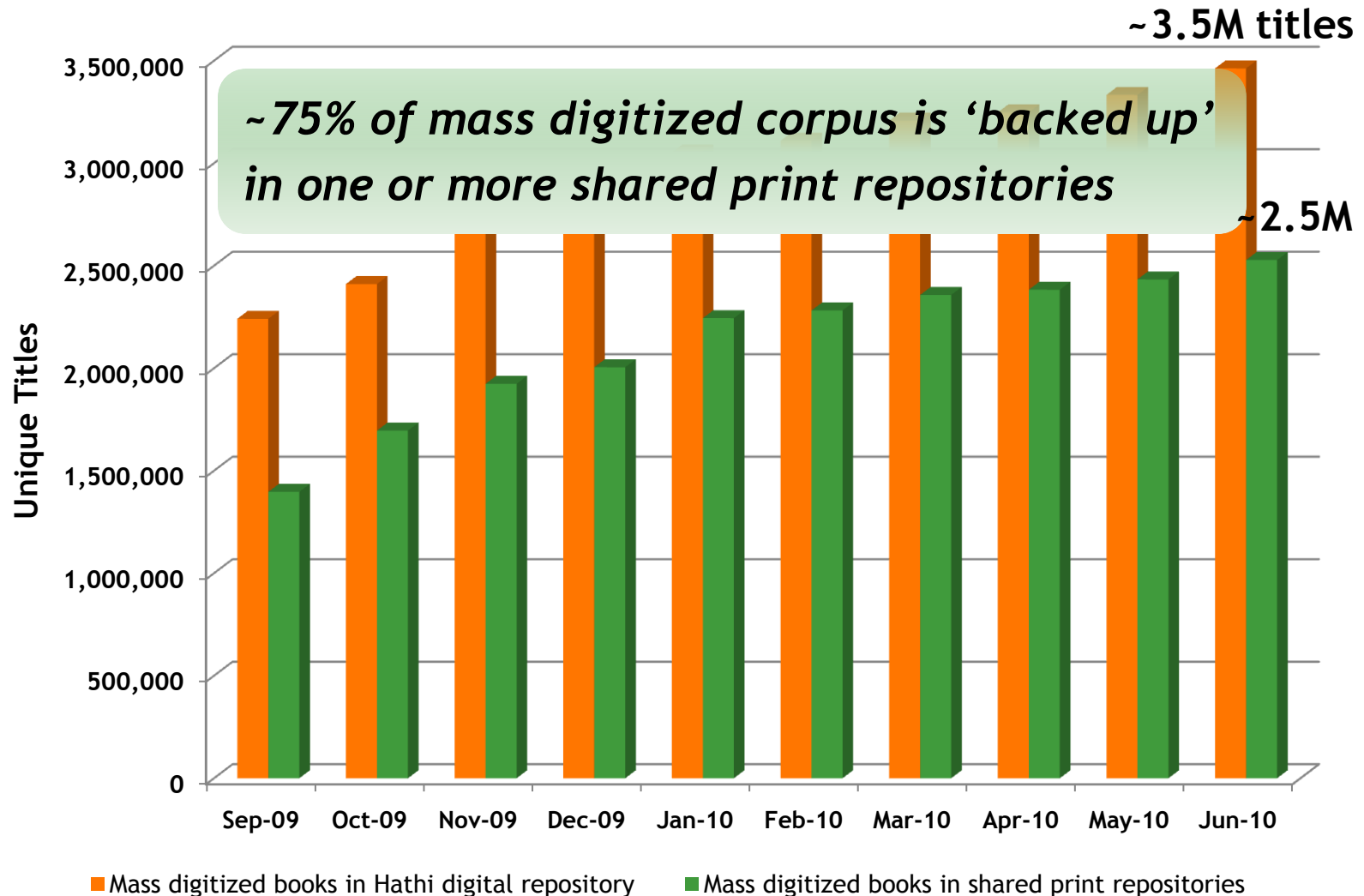
- Within the next 5-10 years, focus of shared print archiving and service provision will shift to monographic collections
- *large scale service hubs* will provide low-cost print management on a subscription basis;
  - *reducing local expenditure* on print operations, *releasing space* for new uses and facilitating a *redirection of library resources*;
  - enabling *rationalization of aggregate print collection* and *renovation of library service portfolio*

Mass digitization of retrospective print collections will drive this transition

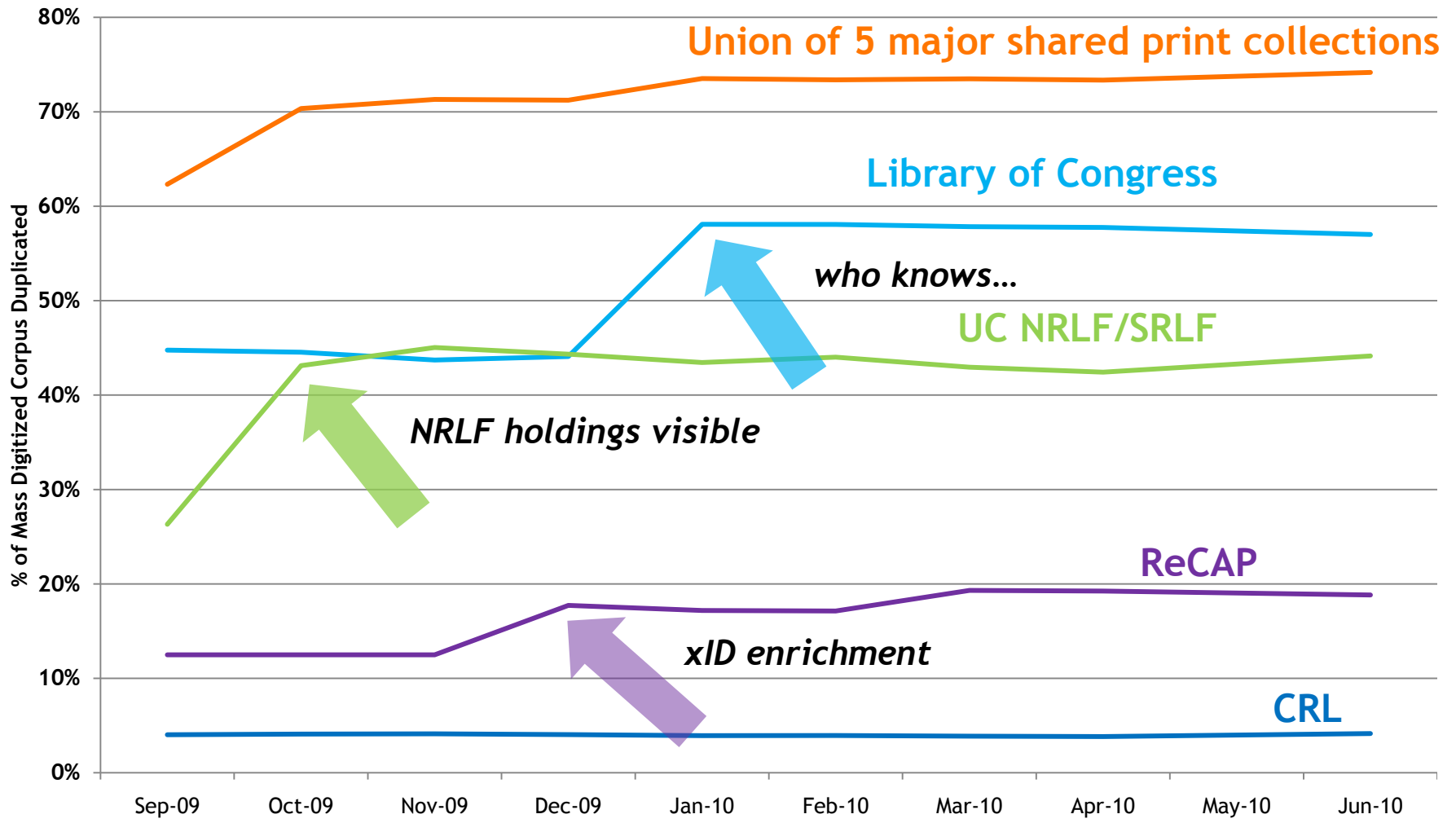
# A global change in the library environment



# Mass Digitized Books in Shared Repositories



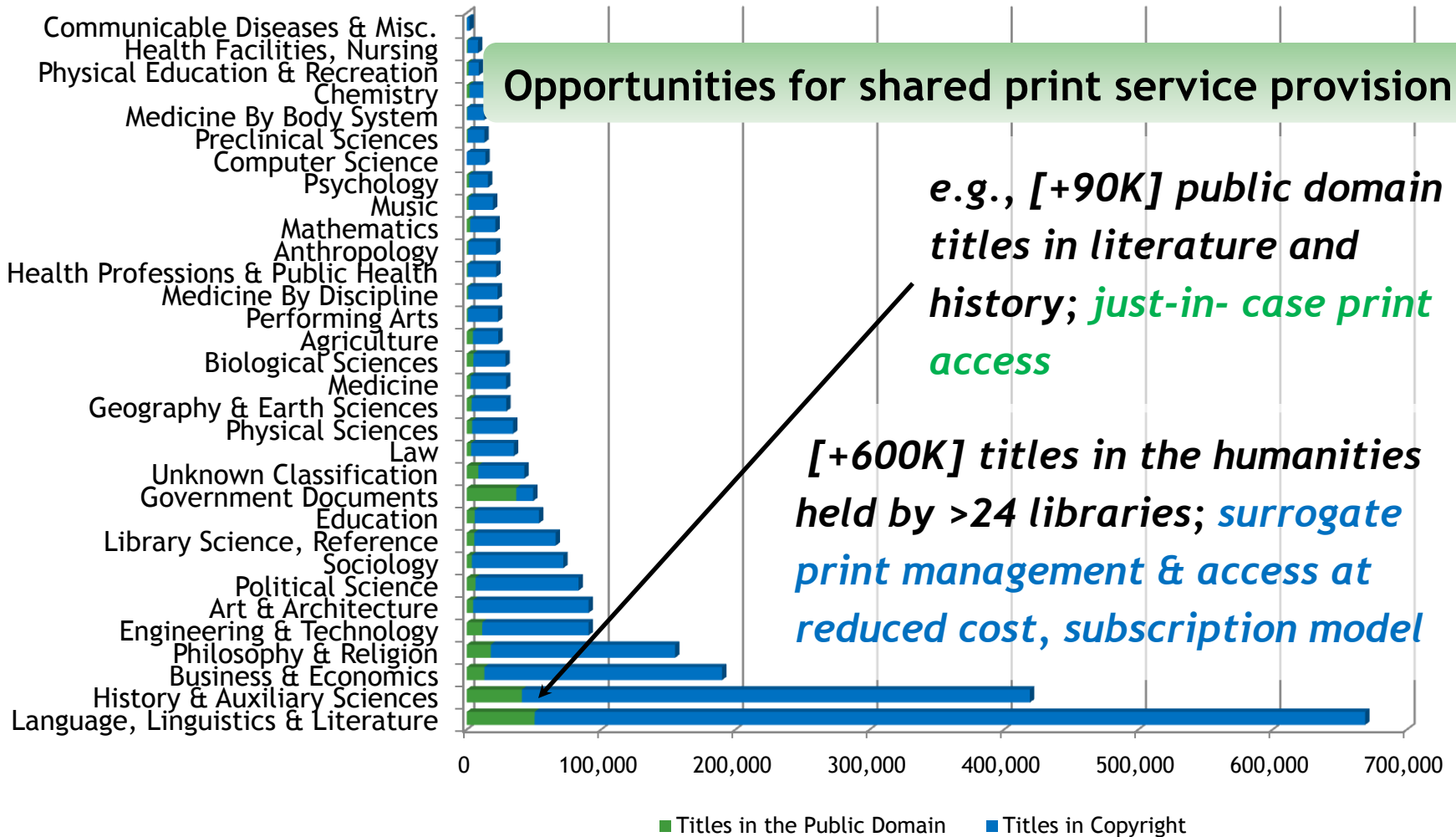
# Shared Print Service Provision: Capacity Varies



# What's in this 'starter set' of shared print?



## Opportunities for shared print service provision



# Management Perspective: How Much is Enough?

## Shared Print service must deliver

- Space recovery equal to “one floor” at outset
- Volume reduction equal to X years of print acquisitions
- Cost not to exceed current storage options
- Minimize (visible) disruption in operations

*If management of mass-digitized monographs could be externalized to large scale providers today:*

average space recovery of 20,000 ASF per library

cost avoidance of ~\$1M for new storage module

cost avoidance of \$1M per year for on-site management

## Shared Print service provision must equal or exceed

- Turnaround/delivery from local storage (<2 days)
- Local loan period
- Local access/availability guarantee, ability to recall etc
- Discoverability of local resource

## Local retention mandated when title held by <10 libraries

*No one mentioned . . .*

Home delivery option → direct to patron

Acceptable loss rate → repository viability

Penalties for late return → impact on other clients

# Implications: Shared Print

A *small number of repositories may suffice* for ‘global’ shared print provision of low-use monographs

*Generic service offer* is needed to achieve economies of scale, build network; uniform T&C

Fuller *disclosure of storage collections* is needed to judge capacity of current infrastructure, identify potential hubs

Service hubs will need to *shape inventory to market needs*; more widely duplicated, moderately used titles

If extant providers aren’t motivated to *change service model*, a new organization may be needed

# Some (surmountable) obstacles

## Political

- In-copyright titles will require a *print supply chain* for foreseeable future

## Cultural

- Shared print *supplier role more socially acceptable* than shared print consumer role

## Technical

- Print preservation *infrastructure latent, not explicit* or actionable

## Structural

- *Bi-lateral agreements* (one consumer, one supplier) *won't produce sufficient value*

# Recommendations: Where to Start

- If your institution has significant holdings in storage *swap your symbol* so that aggregate preservation resource is addressable and carrying capacity can be assessed
- *Use the mass digitized book corpus as driver for de-duplication and storage transfers*; strengthen preservation infrastructure where it is most needed
- *Retain on-site only* those titles for which demand and local value exceeds the (significant) economic and opportunity costs of local management; est. 13% circ rate does not justify current expenditure pattern

# Recommendations: What to Stop

- *Storage transfers that don't meet a known preservation need*; local space pressures (alone) shouldn't dictate what moves first or farthest
- Preservation *strategies that presume local autonomy*; the scholarly record is a shared asset and its preservation is a collective responsibility
- *Enhancing bibliographic records for digitized content*, beyond the addition of **standard identifiers**; let network visibility and full-text search hasten the migration of inventory from stacks to storage

# Proposal: Pilot a Strategic Print Reserve



Largest shared storage collections use mass-digitized titles held in common to characterize generic service offer and common price point for a 'national print reserve'

Compare:

- Availability in print (restricted collections, NOS, loss rate)
- Delivery timetable (including home-delivery option)
- Repository characteristics (environmental conditions, etc.)
- Transaction costs (establish baseline, look for efficiencies)

subscription cost based on  $N$  titles \*  $(.86 * x)$  / no. participants in region holding print version; service level sufficient to enable reduction in inventory

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