



An academic perspective on libraries supporting research

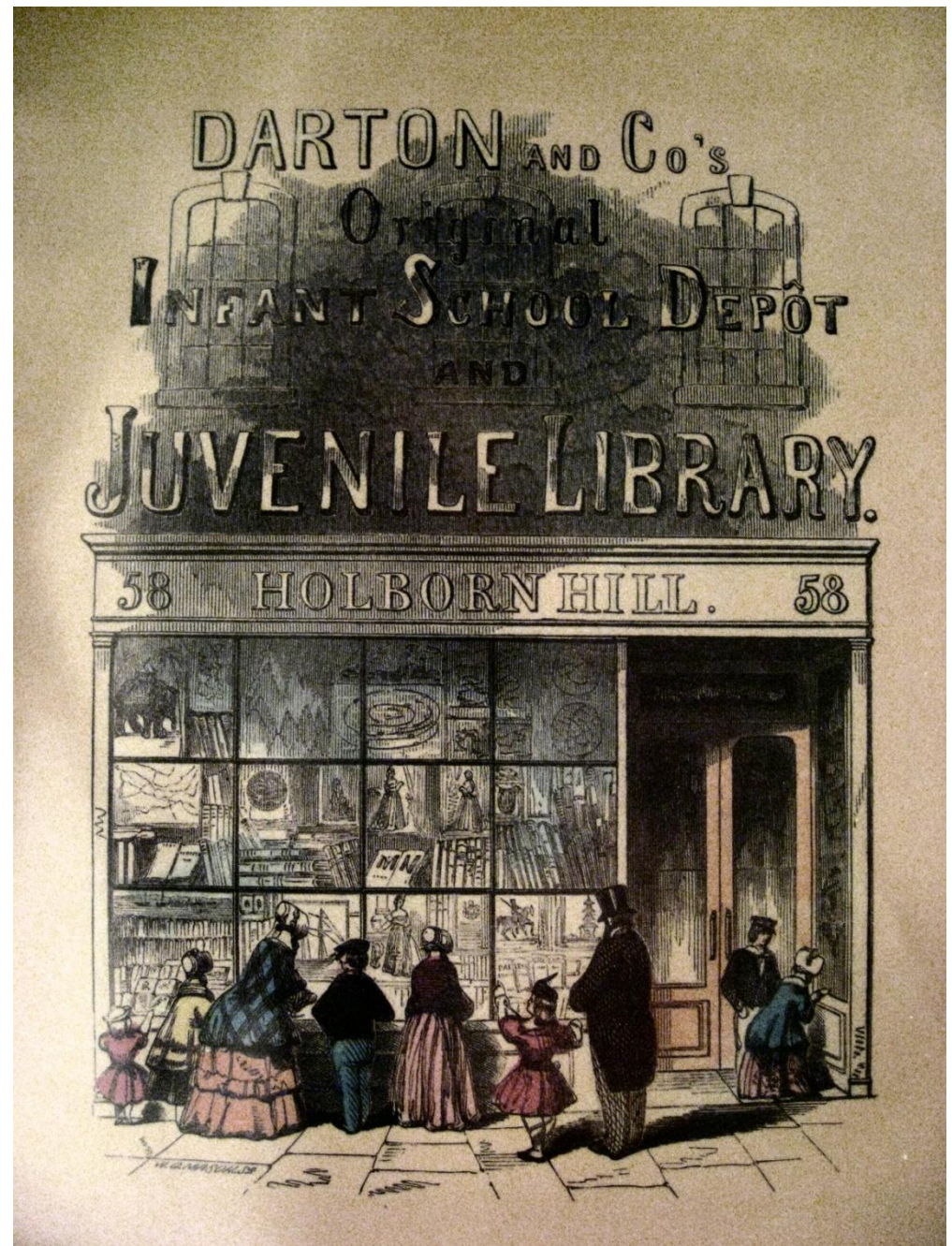
USTLG meeting

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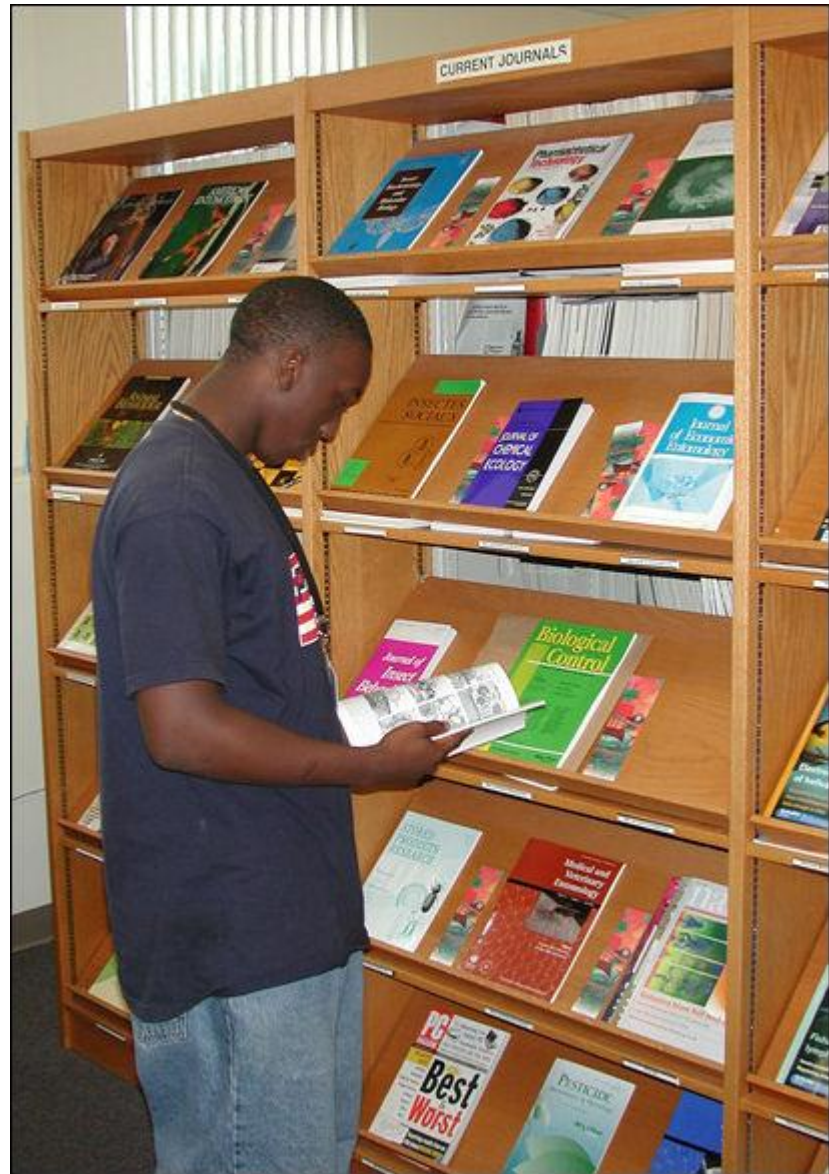
A family
interest in
librarianship?



The library as
guardian of
knowledge
printed in
books
(mainly).
*Librarian as
curator.*

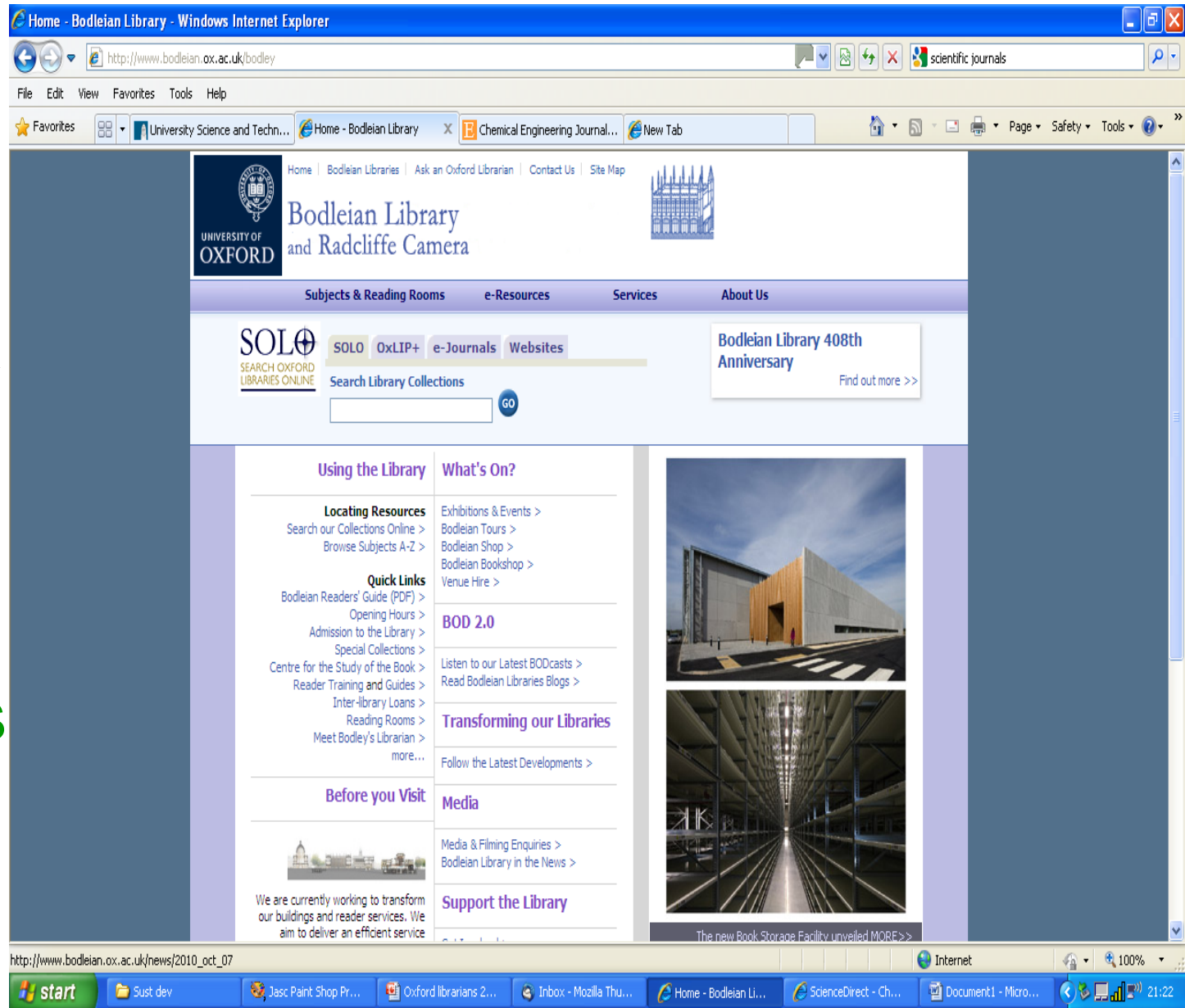


The library as
provider of
information -
journals and
some books.
*Librarian as
supplier.*

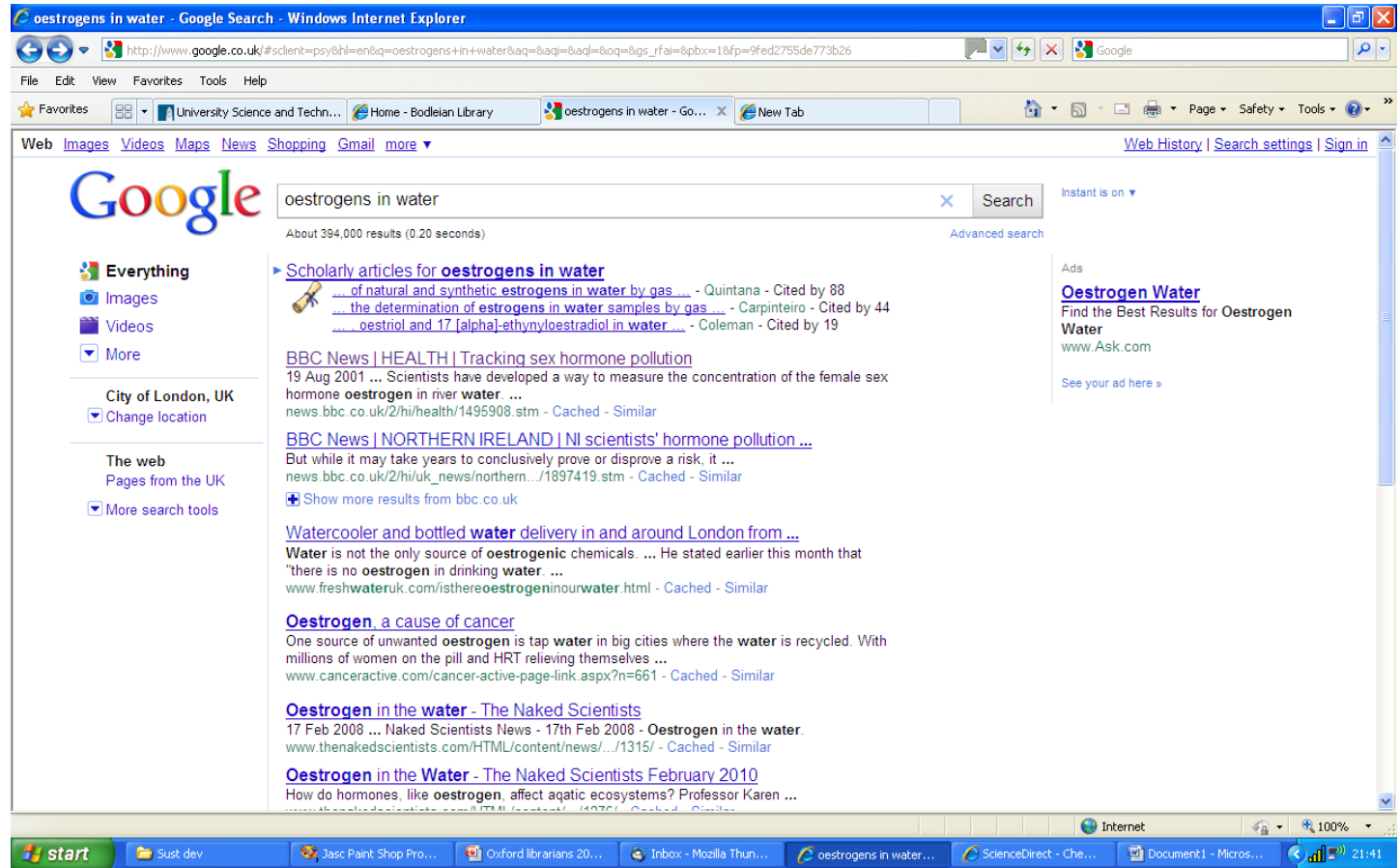




The library
as gateway
to an
information
network.
Librarian as
web
manager.







Even high quality technical information is accessible.
With a “pay per download” policy and subscription
management, you can get what you want.



Consider:

- Many researchers have never held in their hand the journals they are publishing in. They may not be available in print copy.
- Segmentation and specialisation and proliferation have undermined journal loyalty.
- Much information is open-source downloadable from institutions publicising their work and ideas.

But, what about quality control?

We surely don't need a lot of poor quality/wrong information? In serious research work, we need to be sure of what we are reading. Example – the doubts about Wikipedia.

But even peer-reviewed material (the best (?) we have) still needs a critical approach from the researcher.



The research library of the
future?

Storage space for material
that can be ordered up.

And a subscription
department that pays for the
material we order from the
web.



Analogy → alternative

Most researchers (NOT all) no longer need their institution to provide “mainframe” computing power, because all we need is available through a small and cheap machine operated by us.

Costs are devolved to the user.

Towards the *personal library* where costs are also devolved?





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Conclusions

- For research there is still a (limited) place for archived printed material
- But there is no need for libraries to attempt to hold ALL possible information themselves. E-access is mostly sufficient
- The role of library managers in deciding what information is accessible is anachronistic
- Individual researchers could control their information budget.
- Quality control remains an issue for the research community. Peer review as operated by most editors needs rethinking.