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The Age of the Library

Michael J. Paulus, Jr.

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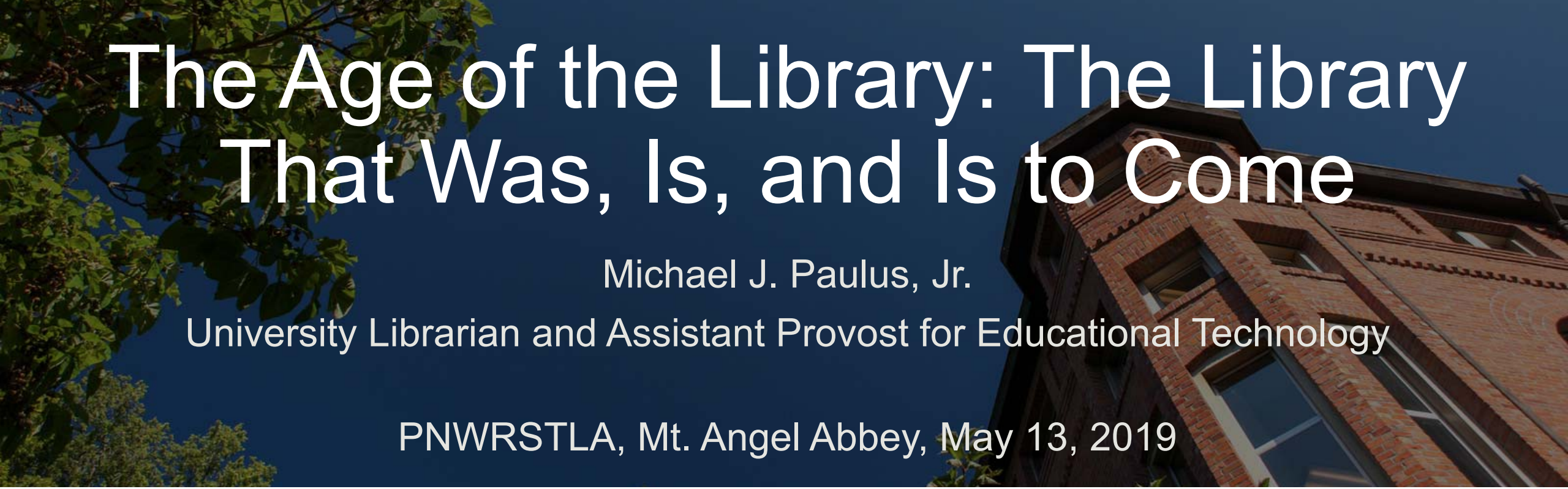

The Age of the Library: The Library That Was, Is, and Is to Come

Michael J. Paulus, Jr.

University Librarian and Assistant Provost for Educational Technology

PNWRSTLA, Mt. Angel Abbey, May 13, 2019

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

NATIONALLY RANKED

SPU is the only private university in the Pacific Northwest to make *U.S. News & World Report's* 2018 "Best National Universities" list.

DIGITAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN SEATTLE

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 7 P.M.

UPPER GWINN COMMONS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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- **STEVEN MAHESHWARY**
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- **MINH-DUC NGUYEN**
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- **STACEY WEDLAKE**
  Research Coordinator and Analyst, Technology and Social Change Group, *University of Washington Information School*

Moderated by **Michael Paulus,** Assistant Provost for Educational Technology, University Librarian, and Director of Information Studies

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The Age of the Library

I. Information

- Definition (as process)
- Information revolutions

II. The Library

- Definition
- Antiquity and eschatology

III. The Future

- Digital transformation
- Epistemological and ethical challenges

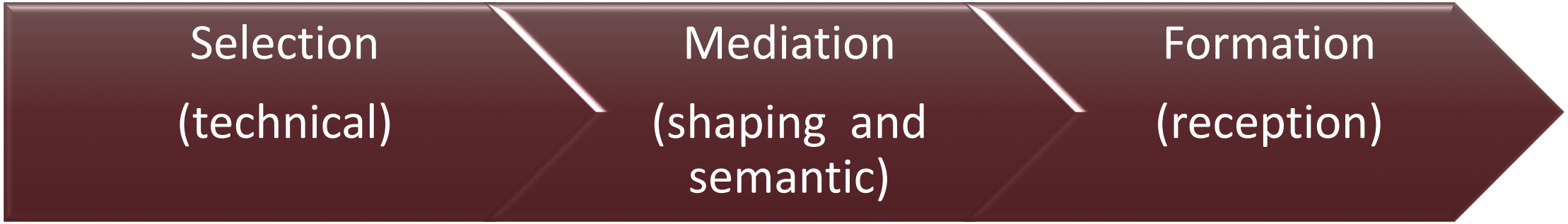
IV. The Present Library

- Material technologies
  - Digital resources
  - Digital environments
- Formative technologies
  - Digital education
  - Digital scholarship

Or, "Why the SPU Library is offering a minor in Information Studies"

I. “Information” Defined As a Process

<u>Selection</u>: Data with potential meaning (“proto-epistemic data”) is selected (technical, “counting,” or Shannon information)
<u>Mediation</u>: Information is given a form and meaning that can be transmitted or communicated (“shaping” and “semantic” information)
<u>Formation</u>: Information is acquired and received



Information Revolutions

I. **Information Abstraction (~100,000 years ago)**

II. **Information Agencies (~10,000 years ago)**

III. **Information Artifacts (~5,000 years ago)**

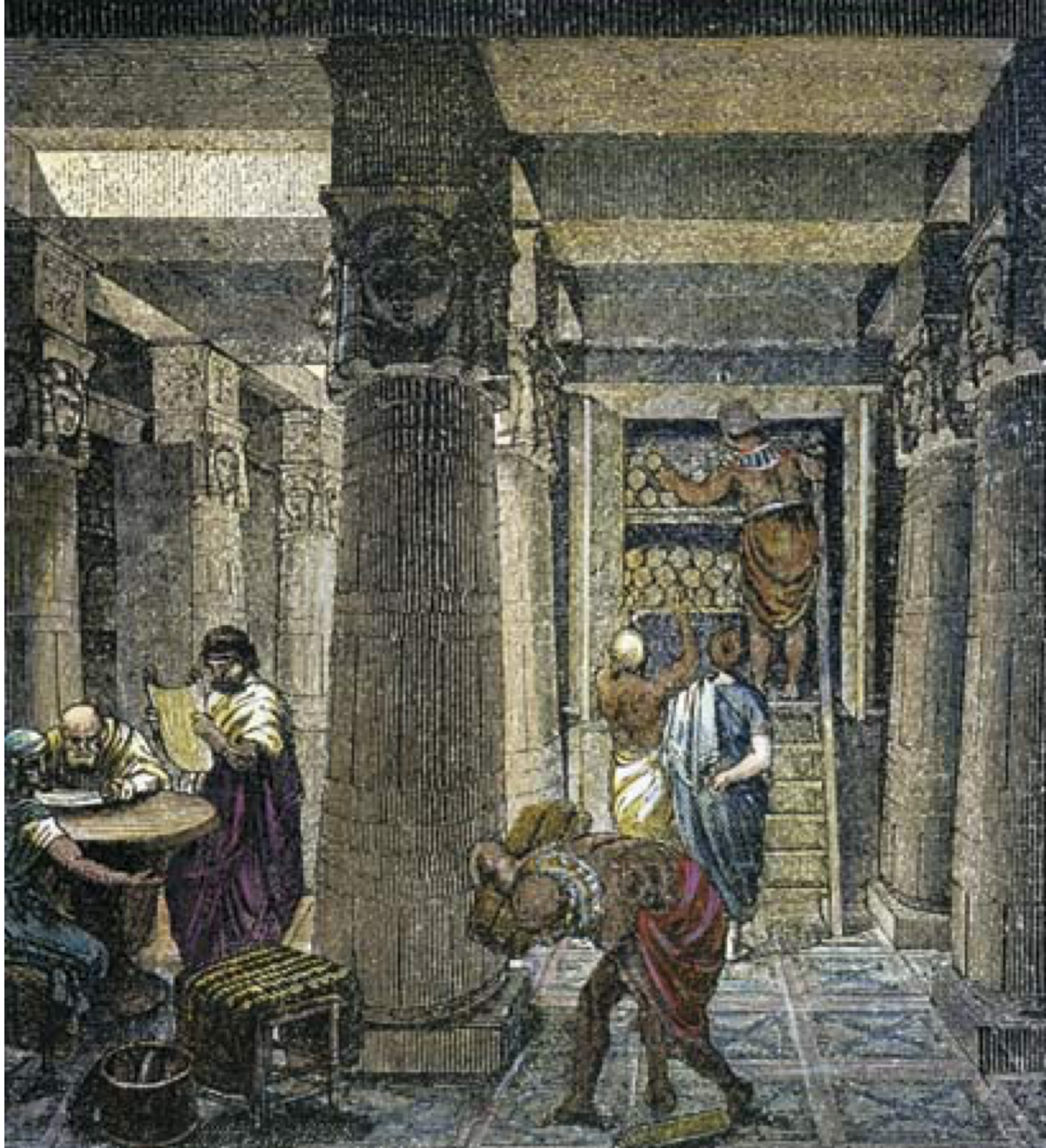
IV. **Information Automation (~100 years ago)**

II. What Is a Library?

1. **An intention to configure a culture represented by fixed expressions of knowledge**

2. **A canonical collection created through selection**

3. **A collection mediated for a community**



The Antiquity of the Library

The Library of Ashurbanipal (7C BCE)

… Alexandria (3C BCE)

… Qumran (1C CE)

… Caesarea (4C)

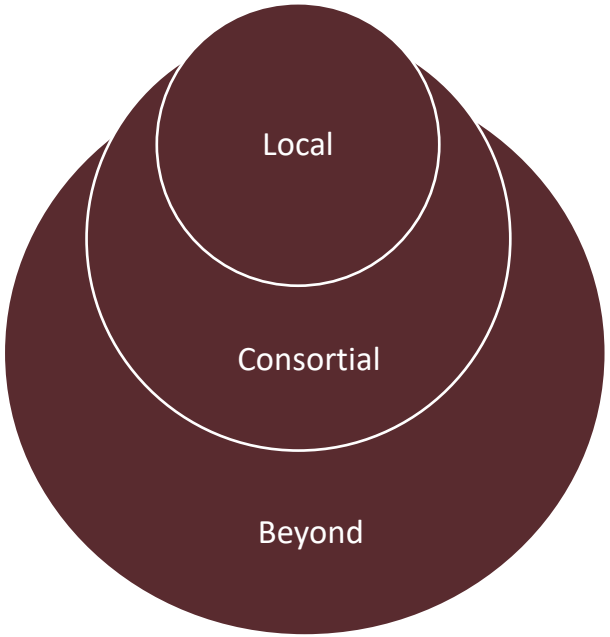
... Abbey of St. Gall (8C)

… Oxford (14C)

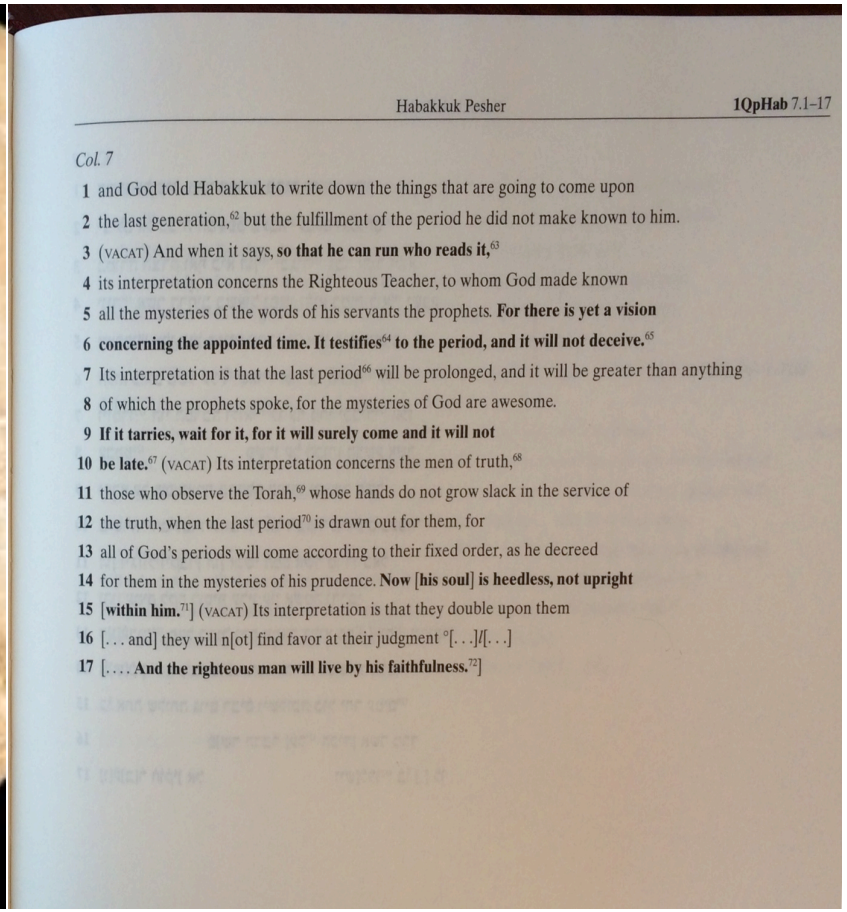
… Gottingen (18C)

… Seattle Pacific (1891)

… Orbis Cascade Alliance (1993)



The Eschatology of the Library



Habakkuk Pesher **1QpHab** 7.1–17

Col. 7

1 and God told Habakkuk to write down the things that are going to come upon
2 the last generation,[62] but the fulfillment of the period he did not make known to him.
3 (VACAT) And when it says, **so that he can run who reads it,**[63]
4 its interpretation concerns the Righteous Teacher, to whom God made known
5 all the mysteries of the words of his servants the prophets. **For there is yet a vision**
6 **concerning the appointed time. It testifies**[64] **to the period, and it will not deceive.**[65]
7 Its interpretation is that the last period[66] will be prolonged, and it will be greater than anything
8 of which the prophets spoke, for the mysteries of God are awesome.
9 **If it tarries, wait for it, for it will surely come and it will not**
10 **be late.**[67] (VACAT) Its interpretation concerns the men of truth,[68]
11 those who observe the Torah,[69] whose hands do not grow slack in the service of
12 the truth, when the last period[70] is drawn out for them, for
13 all of God's periods will come according to their fixed order, as he decreed
14 for them in the mysteries of his prudence. **Now [his soul] is heedless, not upright**
15 **[within him.**[71]] (VACAT) Its interpretation is that they double upon them
16 [. . . and] they will n[ot] find favor at their judgment °[. . .][. . .]
17 [. . . . **And the righteous man will live by his faithfulness.**[72]]

III. The Future

New digital ICTs are transforming our lives and world:

- **Within a generation: internet, social media, mobile technologies**
- **Now: the internet of things, artificial intelligence, V/A/M reality**
- **Next: the information environment will blend with and envelop the physical world**

Epistemological and ethical challenges:

- **Information and attention management**
- **Reflection on and analysis of technological change**
- **Participating in and creating our emerging information society**
- **Shaping the future of education and work**

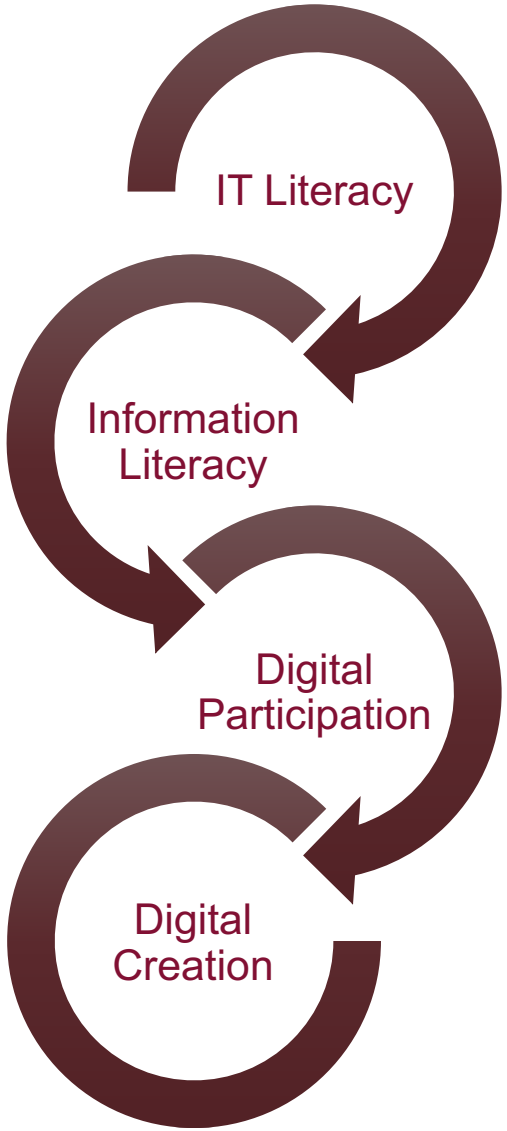
IV. The Present Library: Attending to the Digital Dimension

Material technologies

- **Digital resources**
- **Digital environments**

Formative technologies

- **Digital education**
- **Digital scholarship**



Formative Technologies

- **Digital education**
  - Providing and access to and supporting student and faculty work with technology
  - Linking information literacy with reading, writing, and digital literacies across the curriculum and in the library (Research, Reading, and Writing Studio)
  - Teaching Information Studies courses and creating hew high-impact opportunities for students (first-year and service-learning courses, internship and independent research opportunities)
  - Faculty development workshops and learning communities related to instructional design, teaching with technology, open educational resources, and emerging technologies (e.g., artificial intelligence)
- **Digital scholarship**
  - New forms of digital and open scholarship
  - Emergent scholarship

Information Studies at SPU: Exploring the Intersection of Information, Technology, and Faith in Seattle

- **INF 2000 Information and Attention – How are our lives changing in a high-tech world?**
- **INF 3100 Digital Literacy and Life – How do we live well in the digital age?**
- **IINF 3500 Information and Society – What digital challenges are facing Seattle?**
- **INF 4940 Internship or INF 4970 Independent Research**
- **Tracks and electives from Art, Art History, Communication, Computer Science, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Theology, Visual Communications …**

The Unique Contributions of a Library

- **Cultural care for access to information through selection, collection, and mediation**
- **An enduring institution and infrastructure for information and attention management**
- **Broad temporal orientation to human experience**
  - Archiving what we remember and know
  - Inspiring our imaginations about what we may hope for
  - Enabling our agency to act in the present
- **Multidisciplinary perspective of and expertise about curation and innovation of the information process and environment**
- **A critical material and formative technology for every age**

Thank You
@mjpaulusjr

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