EMBRACING TECHNICAL SERVICE'S PUBLIC SERVICE ROLE

ROUNDTABLE FACILITATOR:

JEFFREY M. MORTIMORE
DISCOVERY SERVICES LIBRARIAN
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
The traditional distinction between the “front office” and the “back office” fails to align with contemporary technical services practice.

Today, technical and public services personnel are equally involved in providing resources, services, and support direct to patrons, demanding communication, collaboration, and public service competencies library-wide.

FOCUSING QUESTIONS

• What are the emerging points of contact between technical and public services, and technical services and patrons? What role has the ongoing transition to electronic resources played in changing or increasing these points of contact, and the need for technical services personnel to participate in their mediation?

• How do technical services personnel provide education, promotion, and support for library resources? What practices work well, and what can we do better?

• How does technical services’ participation in patron education and support impact technical and public services roles library-wide? Are traditional service models well adapted to emerging technical and public service practices?
DOMAINS OF PRACTICE

• Collection Management & Acquisitions
• Cataloging & Organization of Collections
• Electronic Resource Management & Troubleshooting
• Institutional Repository Services & Special Collections
• Data Management Services
• Research Information Management