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#### Evolving the team, expanding skills for the future

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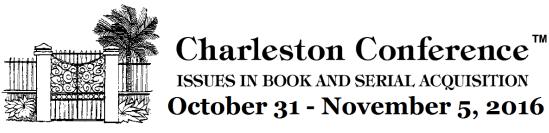
#### Citation

Lim, Hwee Ming and Ong, Vincent. Evolving the team, expanding skills for the future. (2016). Charleston Conference 2016, October 31 - November 5.

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# Evolving the team, expanding skills for the future - SMU Libraries' skills development for the Library Specialists

Charleston Library Conference 2016 Vincent ONG, Hwee Ming LIM Nov 4, 2016



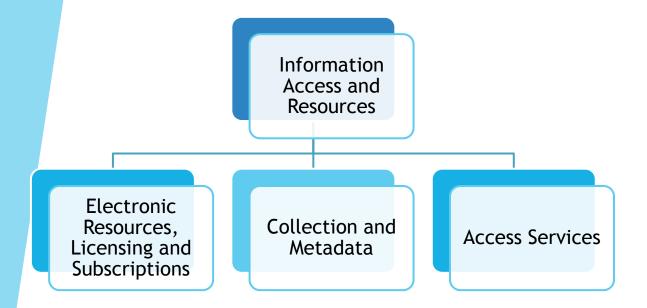
## Singapore Management University (SMU)

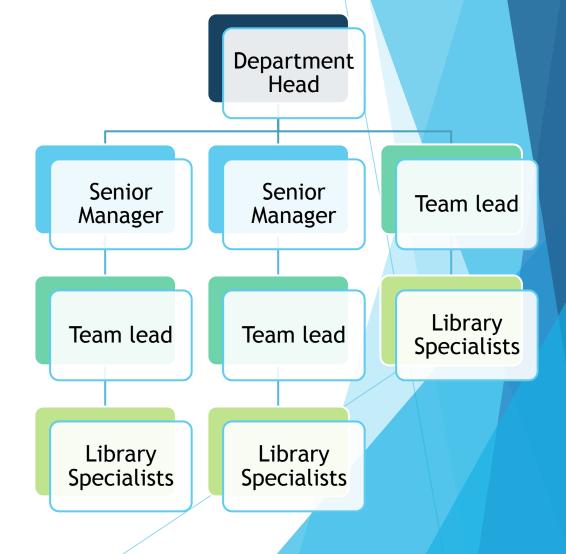
- A young academic university
- 6 Schools Business, Economics, Accounting, Information Systems, Law, Social Sciences and many research centers





## Information Access and Resources







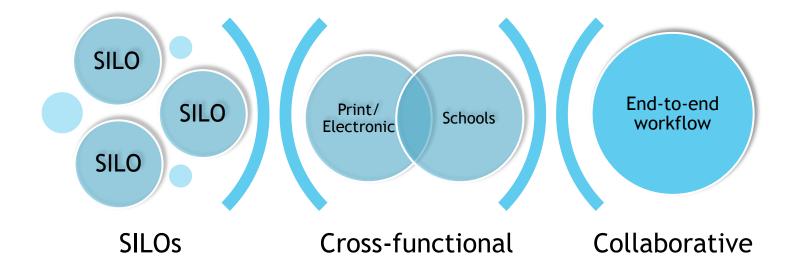
## SMU Libraries Strategic Plan 2016-2018

| Services              | Deliver high-quality, customer-focused services to support and synergize teaching, learning and research                 |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Spaces                | Foster a safe space that enriches and embodies the SMU experience  |  |
| Community             | To be recognized as an integral part of the research, teaching and learning ecology of our community                     |  |
| Culture of Assessment | To enhance a culture of assessment in order to meet the needs of our community   |  |
| Communication         | Promote a dynamic communication with community, while enhancing engagement with stakeholders through outreach programmes |  |
| Talent<br>Management  | Nurture an engaged and highly skilled work force that excels in a dynamic global environment                             |  |



## **Culture of Assessment**

Continuous Assessment & Improvement Initiative





## Talent management helps to

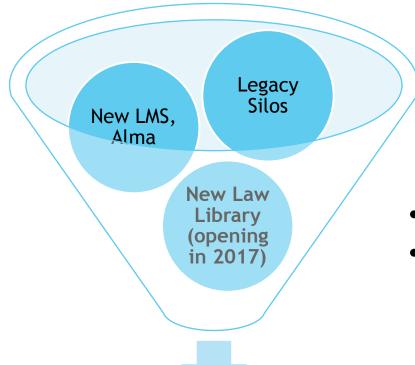
Nurture an engaged and highly skilled team that excels in a dynamic global environment





Libraries

## **Catalysts of Change**



• Future-driven

Environment & system changes

Catalysts of Change



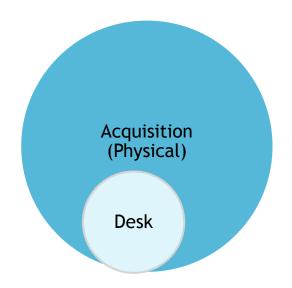
## **Background of Library Specialists**

Para-professionals

Specialized services & Common

shared services

Legacy practices







## New Reporting Lines & Core Responsibilitie

Electronic Resources, Licensing and Subscriptions

| Library    |
|------------|
| Specialist |
| • Serials  |
| - Budgot   |

- Budget
- Technical support
- Receipt (Noniournals)

#### Library **Specialist**

- Orders
- Claiming
- Usage

#### Library **Specialist**

- Invoice
- Usage
- Course Readings
- Course Pack

#### Collection and Metadata

#### Library **Specialist**

- Receipt
- Processing
- Invoice
- Course Readings

#### Library Specialist

- Course Readings
- Course Pack
- License

#### Library **Specialist**

- ILL/DDS
- Orders
- License

#### Library **Specialist**

- Access Services task
- Inventory check
- Deselection
- Binding
- Receipt

#### **Access Services**

#### Library Specialist

- Access Services task
- Course Pack



Libraries

## Getting started with Future Skills

#### Future skills is design to:

• Integration, unified processes **Process** and efficient workflows

People

Upskilling to provide opportunities for new roles

## **Projects**



 Support library-wide projects with faster deliverables

## Future Skills Execution and Transition

| Staff engagement | <ul> <li>Phase 1</li> <li>Team leads formation</li> <li>Training and practice</li> <li>Feedback</li> </ul> | <ul><li>Phase 2</li><li>New roles</li><li>New cross-<br/>functional teams</li></ul> | <ul><li>Transition</li><li>Handover</li><li>Relocation</li></ul> | New roles |
|------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| Aug 2015         | Sep - Dec  | Jan - Mar   | Apr - May  | Jun 2016  |



- Pre-survey questions (competency + interest to develop skill)
- Transparency and one-to-one interview
- Consultative approach (Buy-in and resistance to change)
- Addressing fears/ insecurities



Libraries

## Future Skills Staff Engagement

Department head & staff engagement

- One-to-one interviews
- Identifying areas of interest



Team leads feedback

• Feedback operational issues



Senior Managers & Work Distribution

- Act as advocates
- Address 'fears' and debunk doubts
- Plan and chart new roles



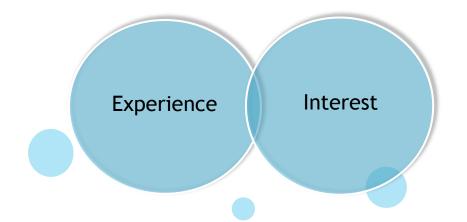


Libraries

## Job redesign: Who fits where?

- Business reasons
- Reporting lines to be clear
- Task lists for each new areas, job description
- Mapping staff to new position
- Final job placement of training

Relocation

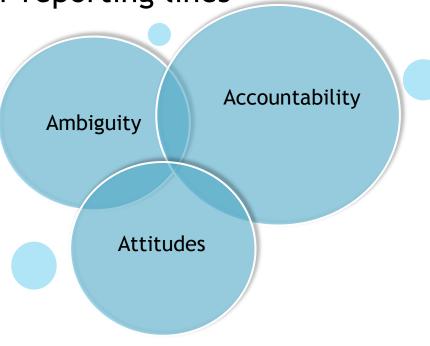




## Pilot Run Feedback

- A little less chaos and ambiguity
- Toxic behaviors and attitudes

Accountability and clear reporting lines





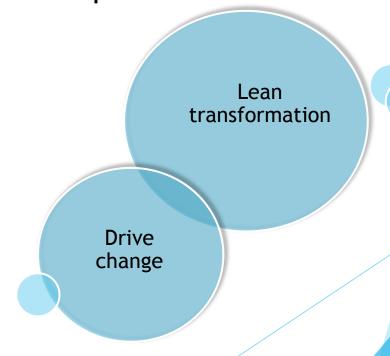
## **Outcomes**

| Situation       | From        | То            |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Information     | Specialized | Shared        |
| Systems         | Silos       | Integrated    |
| Culture         | Directive   | Questioning   |
| Communication   | Vertical    | Horizontal    |
| Problem solving | Individual  | Collaborative |
| Decision making | Individual  | Team          |



#### **Benefits**

- Unlearn legacy practices
- Drive change through cross-functional teams
- Lean transformation
  - Relook process
  - Identify pain points to improve the processes





## Professional Development of Library Specialists

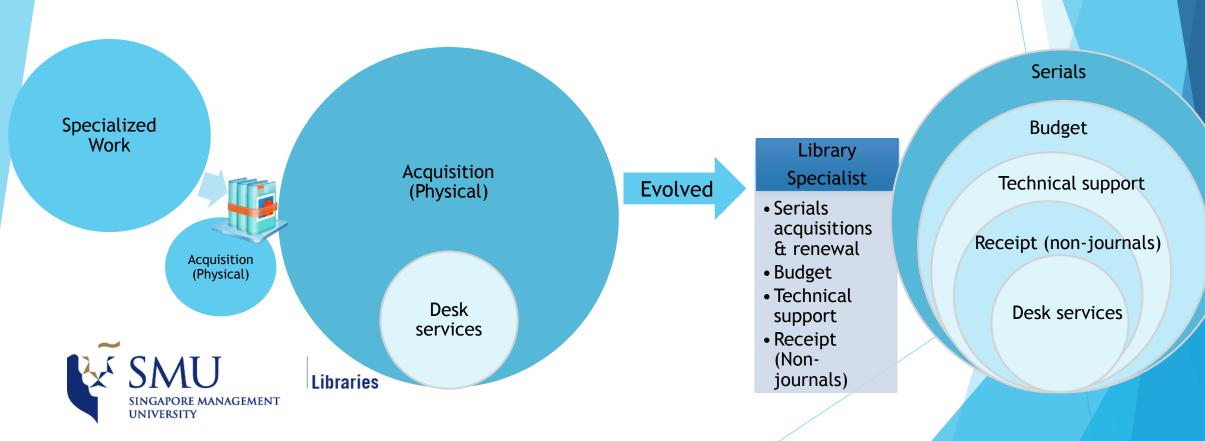
- New job responsibilities & functional areas
- Breaking down boundaries & increase communication skills
- Expanded role and knowledge base





## **Evolved Library Specialists**

- Powered-up and marketable CV
- Foster new culture of collaborative teamwork
- Increased autonomy, independent and increased confidence
- Flexible and adaptable, ready for volatile changes



## Recommendations

- Identify gaps
  - Issues arising from new roles/ work arrangement
    - > Prioritization and time management
    - Different learning curves
    - > Demarcation lines and handoffs
- Identify potential staff
  - Succession career planning
  - > Professional development



## Conclusion

#### **Outcomes**

Shifting from outputs to outcomes

#### Roles

Moving from limited roles to collaborative capabilities

#### New skills

Embracing new skills, roles and workflows

#### Cross-functional collaboration

Team cohesiveness, participate end-to-end workflow

#### Workspace

Co-locate the cross-functional groups



## **Evolution**

"It is time to break down the silos, unite the clans and get to work"

- Eric Ries



