MLA Luncheon Notes – December 11, 2015

**Atkins Library at UNCC**

The vision is to change from a research library concept to more of the learning commons model.

They will be clearing out $200,000 journal backfiles on the second floor to create a visualization, Tech, Maker space.

Collection development costs are an issue. It is hard to increase the budget, as other libraries, they are having to cut resources. They are working on promoting open access.

Creating friends groups to supplement funding with donations particularly in replacing furniture on the 1st floor.

The library is working hard to get their message out to the campus that the role of the library has changed and how that roll has changed.

Assessment is a big issue. Measuring impact on users, impact on student learning. (Beth Martin is now the Assessment Librarian).

A challenge is to get the online system to work for users so they can find what the library has to offer. Difficult to pull the discovery layers together.

Digitization and special collections costs money and time so care in prioritizing projects is important.

**Queens University**

The library has undergone a number of budget cuts already and was underfunded already in 2008/2009.

Many in the administration still see the library as study cubicles so they need to get everyone on board.

They have facilities challenges. The library built in 1960 needs a full renovation.

Special collections. They have discovered boxes of historical material for the university in the basement of a dormitory. Special collections are important because they differentiate the library.

Open source. IT does not understand it as the library has done it all in the past.

**Ideas for Developing Librarians from Both Librarians**

Blogging about all the professional opportunities within driving distance.

Interest groups by type of library – identify expertise in certain areas. (It was noted that MLA was formed from a number of small interest groups which came together.)

Speaker’s bureau about library issues in the area.

Tours of libraries. (MLA has done this in the past… low attendance)

Information Literacy scaffolding. Community Colleges, Public Library and University levels.

Sharing assessment approaches… metrics, ROI.

Digitization—one search interface for all our collections. Opportunities to share equipment.

All librarians have to be prepared to teach. MLIS not preparing graduates to teach.

Library schools focus on theory not practice and thus graduates have gaps.

Value in doing research on assessment.