

1A—ACADEMIC LIBRARY FUTURES #2

Predictions of the Future of the Academic Library from Within and Without

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Concern with the future occupies a central role in librarianship. Not surprisingly, librarians, particularly academic librarians, have produced a significant body of literature on the future of the library and, in particular, the academic research library in North America. A significant body of writing on the topic by “non-librarians” also exists. This paper critically reflects on differences between the writings of librarians and non-librarians on this topic, in particular the underlying differences in attitude, conception of the mission of the library, and core values. The paper attempts to discern what impact those differences have had, and may continue to have, on the status, mission, and form of the academic library.