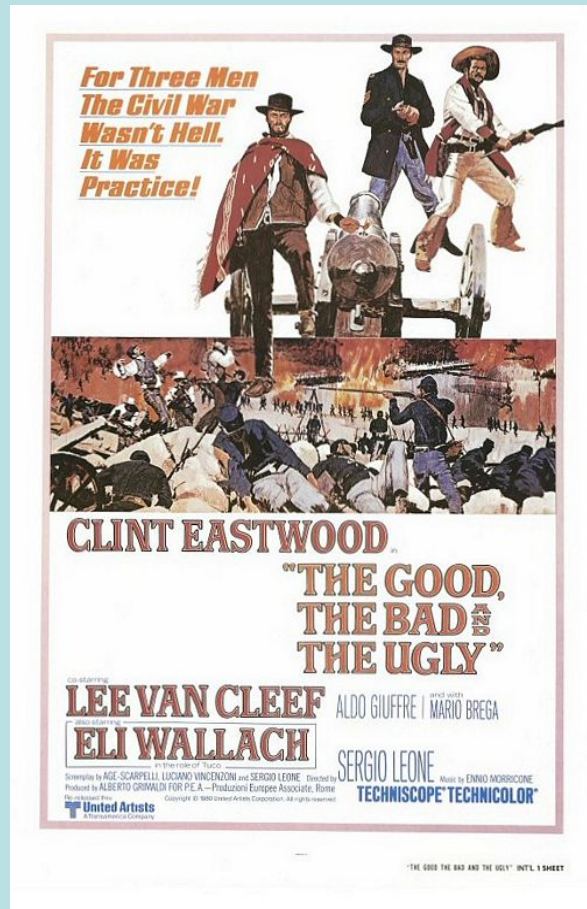


Who needs libraries anyway: a librarian's response

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The good, the bad and the ugly



... What's a librarian to do?

The good, the bad and the ugly

- Report comes at an important time and helps librarians understand researchers
- Librarians and researchers agree on many roles and issues
- Researchers welcome emphasis on digital library
- Arts and humanities researchers in particular value the library
- Researchers see roles for librarians in future

The good, **the bad** and the ugly

- Dissatisfaction on our lack of focus on research
- A “good enough” approach to research changes patterns of information and library use
- Researchers don’t make effort to get information which is not immediately available
- What is not available digitally is almost invisible
- Use of the library as place is declining

The good, the bad and **the ugly**

- Researchers don't understand what is being done for them
- Researchers don't influence senior management on behalf of libraries
- Divergence in value given to the subject based roles
- Divergence on the value of future roles which librarians have identified as important

The good, the bad and the ugly: some further questions

- Can we believe what researchers **say** about libraries when they may **act** differently?
- Will it change in the future?
- Should we continue to depend on support from the humanities?
- How do we really communicate with each other?

The librarian's response (1)

- Work in partnership to understand each other
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Go on with agreed core roles; explain our new roles
- Think about the continuum from learning to research: work out the balance
- Accept and support new methods of research behaviour

The librarian's response (2)

- Grow the digital library
- Get discovery, digitisation and information organisation sorted out
- Re-define the library as place
- Pursue reciprocal access schemes
- Reconsider subject expert role and information skills in this environment
- Make it easy

The librarian's response (3)

- We are trusted—exploit this
- Get out to where the researchers are—social networking, Virtual Research Environments
- Consider the library brand in the virtual space

Who needs libraries, anyway?

- Researchers need libraries—but perhaps not the library which they are thinking about
- We can address much through communication and working together—how do we create the necessary fora?