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Research Libraries in 2015: Vanishing Icons or Transformed and Thriving?

Abstract of a presentation by H. Thomas Hickerson, Associate University Librarian for Information Technologies and Special Collections at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, given at WCMC-Q, Wednesday May 3rd, 2006.

Jerry D. Campbell, Chief Information Officer and Dean of Libraries at the University of Southern California, recently published an article in *EDUCAUSE Review* entitled "Changing a Cultural Icon: The Academic Library as a Virtual Destination." Campbell predicts that academic librarians and their libraries "may face extinction over the next decade," and this article is being frequently cited as part of the present dialogue.

Thomas Hickerson finds much to agree with in Campbell's comments but also questions some of his conclusions. Hickerson, to the contrary, projects that the value of libraries to academe and to society may actually increase during the next decade - but that the role of libraries will have changed.

Office of Public Affairs
WCMC-Q
Education City
P.O. Box 24144
Doha, Qatar

Michael Vertigans
Director
Phone: +974 492 8650
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu

Sylvia Ismail
Associate Editor/Writer
Phone: +974 492 8651
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: smi2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu