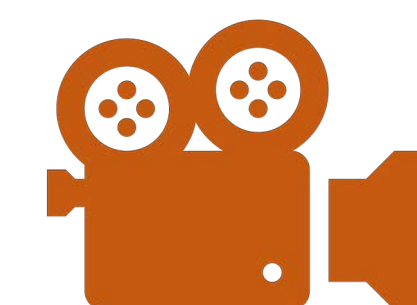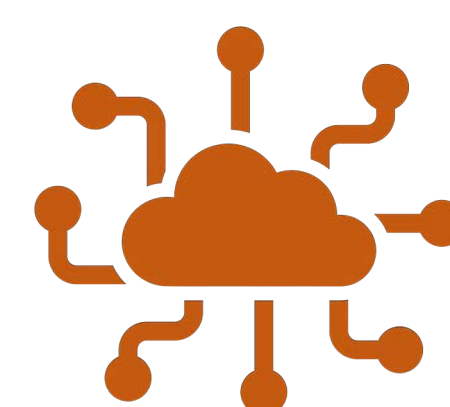# Managers

OF

Digital Libraries

Presenter: Elias Royal

With a **"digital shift"** shift to digital services, a technology specialist is becoming an emerging role for libraries and information professionals (Lessick et al., 2013). Within the context of academic libraries, however, a digital librarian evaluates and manages information across various formats (Vassilakaki & Moniarou-Papacontantinou, 2015).
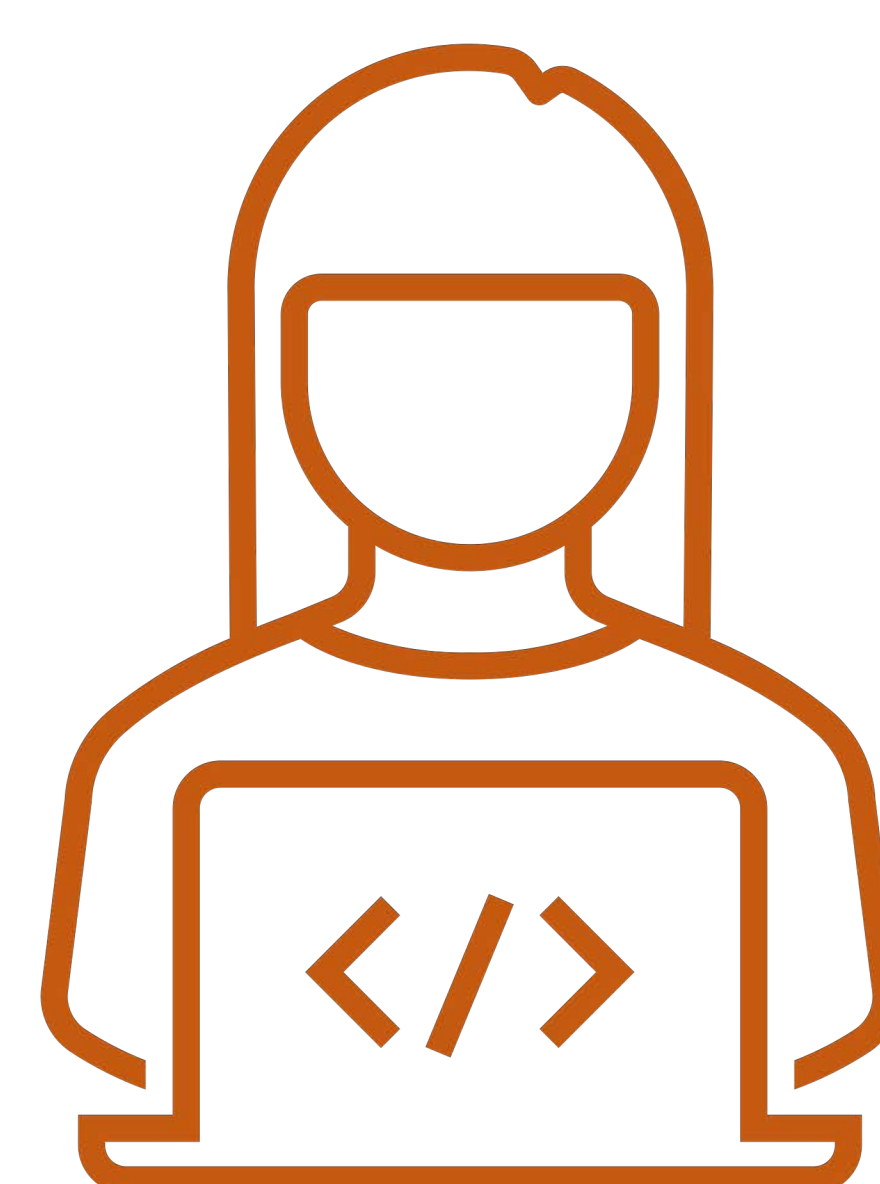
Digital librarianship is emerging in a technological landscape consisting of an expansive, multimedia, hypermedia, collaborative structure that reevaluates the need, role and identity of the librarian (Vassilakaki & Moniarou-Papacontantinou, 2015). With this reassessment of the librarian with a digital library, the digital librarian adopts a series of diverses roles, which expand on the librarian's LIS education.

Emergent Field

With the role of website developer, researcher, user-interface designer, knowledge manager, and facilitator, librarians face their greatest challenge because it prompts them gain new skills. According to Kneip (2007), web development is an indispensable skill because libraries, with multi-functional websites, can offer digital research tools, educate patrons on information literacy, and market their services to the community. However difficult, traditional librarians are adapting to this digital shift by participating in training and self-instruction (Kneip, 2007).

The rapid shift towards digital content and internet services has greatly impacted academic libraries. With the advent of massive open online courses (MOOCS) and virtual learning environments (VLEs), librarians can use these new platforms to fulfill the mission and goals of their libraries (Vassilakaki & Moniarou-Papacontantinou, 2015). In addition, librarians with a traditional background in library sciences can use these platforms to learn the skills to become successful digital librarians.

Digital Librarianship