

Print-Based Culture Meets An ‘Amazoogole” World: New Challenges To A Priesthood of Readers

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Introduction

- Truth can set you free (Jn 8.32)
- Information can be potentially dangerous
- Does a “right to be wrong” enhance Freedom of Speech?

Church of Christ Knowledge Ecology

- Loose religious movement
- Non-formal means of organization
 - Higher Education Institutions
 - Lectureships
 - Print publications
- Heritage is primarily based in print

Where is the heritage deposited in print?

- Largest collection perhaps at Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University followed by Harding University Graduate School of Religion
- Most of the collection for *a cappella* Churches of Christ is based at the libraries of the higher education institutions in collections of varying sizes

Challenges?

- The “Calhoun Report”
- OCLC’s 2005 Perceptions Report
- Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control
- Wikipedia
- Overall push to favoring digital information over physical manifestations that are more tangible

Problems

- Structural incapacity to undertake massive digitization
 - Who would fund this?
 - Who would do this?
- The online arena leaves open the possibility of any record of Churches of Christ heritage being quashed

Ways Forward

- Promote information literacy more directly
- Increase outreach as to the contents of library collections
- Work within economic reality

Any Questions?