

## **Moore's Law and the future of libraries**

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Gordon Moore observed in a 1965 paper that the density of transistors in integrated circuits doubled every couple of years. Since then his “law” has been expanded to cover all sorts of other developments in the i.t. industry, including notably memory capacity, density of pixels in screens and cameras, processing speed, and prices. All sorts of content providers, some of them corporate, some academic, some NGOs, some governments, and some private individuals have taken advantage of the progressively easier means to broadcast content through the Web. Google and others like Google have made possible what might be regarded as indexing of some of that content. Lots of the rest, the part Google et al. have not indexed, are behind pay walls. As more academically relevant information and knowledge becomes more easily accessed via the Web, many might ask whether libraries have futures at all. All of this might be regarded as resultants of the operation of Moore's Law.

This paper suggests some important ways libraries must continue to exist, the services that could be provided, the means by which those services might be provided, and the on-going characteristics and conditions under which libraries might continue to exist.