Why consider remote storage?
Some thoughts to warm up…

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Common reasons

• … your stacks are filled up, and an extension on site is not possible

• … you want to use stack space for something different, like public space

• … your stacks pose preservation problems

• … your stack space in the city centre is too expensive
A concept with a long tradition

- Alexandria Library: remote storage for 48'000 scrolls in the Serapeum Temple


- First actual remote storage facilities in the 1940ies
...but what is ‘remote’?

- in the same city?
- in the countryside, but sort of close by?
- really, how far is too far?
Remote storage in Europe
United States, and elsewhere

• Situation USA, 2012
  – About 60% of ARL member libraries have remote storage facilities (most of them of the so-called ‘Harvard type’)
  – ca. 90 remote storage facilities
  – of individual libraries (Harvard: HD, Yale: LSF, …)
  – of several libraries = cooperative (RECAP, PASCAL, …)
• Canada: comparable to the US
• Australia: CARM and CARM2
• Asia: Japan, Hongkong, …
A final question

• individual or cooperative?

• Advantages and disadvantages
  – Cooperative usually means “rr” for some libraries
  – Clear cost advantages for cooperation
Answers from a concrete example

• CSLS in Büron, Switzerland
  – cooperation of 6 libraries (academic and public)
  – high density: high bay, automated, oxygen-reduced

• All kinds of storage needs of all participating libraries
• Preservation
• Cost
  (but full cost calculation and comparability is important!)
• Logistics
• Development potential
… and remote special collections?

• similar questions, only more pronounced
• plus questions of transport damages
• Example CSLS:
  – some libraries have parts of their heritage collection in Büron
  – the Central and University Library keeps the most valuable volumes (incunabula, manuscripts) in Lucerne, but has a large part of their 17th to 20th century special collection in Büron
  – but careful preparation:
    • acid free cardboard boxes
    • careful packing of containers
    • tuning of all moving units (robots, conveyor belts, lifts)
Now for the real questions! and thanks for your attention.

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