The Six Ages of Library Collection Development

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The Stone Age

Manuscripts

Monasteries

Hand Copying

Accumulation
The Bronze Age

Printed books
National Libraries
Increased Mobility
Accumulation
The Iron Age

Serious technology tools
Union Catalogs
Interlibrary Loan
Accumulation
The Industrial Age

Post-war boom
Explosive growth
Automating old habits
Mass accumulation
The Information Age

Serials Crisis → Digital Information
Consortia
Economic/Legal Contention
Access over Accumulation
The Machine Age

Or should we call it: The Age of Machine Reading?