**My Special Library Is...**

**ANNOTATIONS APRIL 2020**

All talking points below are based on feedback from RAILS special librarians.

**THE BEST SEARCH ENGINE**

* Special librarians prevent information overload. A single Google search can return billions of results with contradictory information. Unlike Google, special librarians know how to quickly use precision searching to find accurate answers.
* Special librarians are trained professionals who can help find the most trustworthy, accurate information. They can also help identify the difference between fake and real news.
* Most of the specialized information special library users are looking for is not available free on the internet. Through paid subscriptions, special libraries provide access to countless sources of credible data, information, and knowledge—far beyond what is discoverable by any internet search engine.

**CENTRAL TO THE ORGANIZATION’S SUCCESS**

* The special library is a unique part of the organization, providing research, data, and services that are unavailable elsewhere.
* The special library supports the organization’s mission and targets its resources and services to specific needs of both staff and clientele.
* Special libraries are at the forefront of technology, utilizing the latest innovations to keep users informed and up-to-date on their subject matter.

**AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT**

* Well-funded special libraries ensure that special librarians are best positioned to meet all of the information needs of their users, to conduct research, and to provide the most current data and information.
* In many special libraries, subject matter is abundant and collections grow quickly, often getting backlogged. Adequate funding allows users to have full access and optimal use of these materials.

**STAFFED WITH AN INFORMATION EXPERT**

* Special librarians have in-depth subject knowledge and know the best sources of information in their organization’s area of focus. They can help users navigate all these resources, whether in print or online, traditional or electronic.
* Special librarians offer a wide range of customized information services including competitive intelligence; industry and market research; legal, patent, business and technical research; and more.
* Special librarians rely not only on their own expertise, but can tap into a network of peers for guidance in finding the most accurate answer to a question.