It Takes a Village to Raise Awareness: eBooks and Libraries: Resources

OLA/WLA 2013 Conference *The Future is Now*

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eBooks and Libraries - The Basics

A basic round-up of the issues involved in eBook lending aired on NPR's All Things Considered in late December 2012. It's as good a place to start as any.
http://www.npr.org/2012/12/27/167649198/libraries-and-e-lending-the-wild-west-of-digital-licensing

Big Six and eBooks - Overview as of ALA MidWinter

This handy chart shows the status of each of the Big Six publishers with regard to eBooks:
http://www.exacteditions.com/browse/324/1156/34488/3/7

More Reading Suggestions

http://www.ursulakleguin.com/Blog2012.html
"Libraries and Ebooks." Ursula K. Leguin's Blog. August 27, 2012. (Scroll down to entry #56 "Libraries and Ebooks")

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/05/future-of-libraries/questions-for-david-weinberger/
"LJ Talks to David Weinberger about the Living Web" Library Journal. May 22, 2012.

http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/12/library-wars-amazon-and-publishers-vie-for-control-of-e-book-rentals/249544/
"Library Wars: Amazon and Publishers Vie for Control of E-Book Rentals." Peter Osnos. Atlantic Monthly. December 6, 2011.

http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/2011/06/what-libraries-can-do-when-they-buy-an-ebook.html
"What libraries can do when they buy an ebook." LibraryLaw Blog. June 29, 2011.

http://www.newrepublic.com/article/books-and-arts/magazine/david-bell-future-bookless-library
"The Bookless Library." David A. Bell. The New Republic. July 12, 2012.

http://blog.findings.com/post/20527246081/how-we-will-read-clay-shirky
"How We Will Read: Clay Shirky." Findings Blog. April 5, 2012. [If you read one article, make it this one. - Kirk]

Awareness-Raising Projects

ReadersFirst http://readersfirst.org/
An international coalition of more than 225 public libraries, formed to promote the improvement of eBook access and services for public library users. Members from Washington State include SPL, KCLS, Tacoma PL, Pierce County, Sno-Isle, Spokane PL, and Spokane County Library.

eBooks For Libraries http://ebooksforlibraries.com/about/
eBooks for Libraries posted a petition, seeking 10,000 signatures, which they promised to forward to publishers to increase their awareness of the needs of libraries and library patrons. The petition currently has more than 12,000 signatures. Sponsored by Topeka/Shawnee County Library and Library Renewal.

Library Renewal http://libraryrenewal.org/about/
Since 2008, Library Renewal has dedicated thousands of hours of research toward the goal of delivering e-content to library users in new, equitable, effective, and affordable ways. It became a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2010.

Vendor Responses to the Library eBook Crisis

OverDrive
OverDrive's **Developer Portal** is a response to the demand for more control over the user experience in accessing and checking out eBooks. Libraries that want to use OverDrive's API's must apply to OverDrive to be allowed to use them; developers need to have a very clear idea of the functionality they intend to use and how they will be implementing their projects before applying for usage of the API's.

3M Cloud Library
While their lending and pricing models are substantially similar to the existing paradigm established by OverDrive, they are worth mentioning here for their publicly-announced **support for ReadersFirst**. They are also releasing open API's for use by ILS vendors.

Legal Situation of eBooks and Libraries

HathiTrust Lawsuit
The Authors Guild filed a lawsuit against HathiTrust in September 2011, claiming that they did not have the right to scan library books for distribution online as eBooks. The lawsuit was decided in favor of HathiTrust in October, 2012, and was appealed the following month. In March, 2013, heavy hitters including the MPAA filed amicus briefs on behalf of the Authors Guild in their appeal of the decision. HathiTrust holdings are part of the OpenLibrary project.
http://www.infodocket.com/2013/03/05/aap-mpaa-and-others-file-amicus-briefs-in-authors-guild-v-hathitrust-appeal/

Google Books Lawsuit
Here is a *very* abbreviated timeline of the lawsuits against Google for its "every book" digitization project; the outcome of these lawsuits could impact what libraries can and can't do with digitized books in their collection as well as commercially published eBooks.

2004

Google partners with Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, University of Michigan, NYPL and others to launch the "Google Print Library Project" (later "Google Books Library Project").

2005

Lawsuits filed by the Authors Guild as well as the AAP (along with McGraw-Hill, Simon & Schuster, Penguin USA, John Wiley & Sons, and Pearson Education) challenge Google's right to scan and enable access to in-copyright works without compensation to authors and publishers.

2006-2007

Google brings in several more major university libraries to add up to 50 million books.

2008

Google reaches a settlement with publishers that will compensate them for the scanning.

2010

Google announces their intention to scan every known book (129,864,880 books) by the end of the decade. The Google Book Store (Google Editions) launches in December 2010.

2011

A Federal judge rejects the settlement reached between the publishing industry and Google. The Authors Guild lawsuit continues.

2012

The Authors Guild wins the right to represent all of its members, plus all other authors whose works have been scanned by Google, as a class. A New York district court judge rules the HathiTrust project (a similar book-scanning project) constitutes fair use.

2013

The Authors Guild appeals the decision in favor of HathiTrust; meanwhile its lawsuit against Google and libraries has been joined by visual artists, press photographers, and others.

Some Alternative Models - Library Owned and Operated eBooks Platforms

Bibliotheca http://www.bibliotheca.com/1/index.php/us/ebooks
Vendor: Bibliotheca
Model: Framework for libraries to negotiate directly with publishers to purchase and lend eBooks on terms they can determine and control. Commercialization of the work done by

Douglas County Libraries' Jamie LaRue to create an independent eBook platform. It was recently announced that Douglas County has been working with a different vendor, **Impelsys**, on an eBook acquisitions platform, which could also be marketed to other libraries.

OdiloTK http://odilotid.es/general/odilotk_caracteristicas_eng.htm
Vendor: OdiloTID
Model: Framework for libraries to negotiate directly with publishers to purchase and lend eBooks on terms they can determine and control. Primarily used in Europe; based in Spain.

Some Alternative Models - Per-Download, Simultaneous Use, and Streaming Media

Freading http://freading.com/
Vendor: Library Ideas
Pricing: Per token, $.50 (or $.51 with MARC records)
Model: Pay-as-you-go (with a small platform fee to get started)

Hoopla https://library.hoopladigital.com/home
Vendor: Midwest Tape
Pricing: Per "circ" (checkout of a file for streaming), $.99 to $2.99
Model: Pay-as-you-go (front-loaded based on population served)

Some Alternative Models - Non-Simultaneous, Library-Owned Content with DRM

OpenLibrary
An arm of Brewster Kahle's **archive.org**, the OpenLibrary aims to catalog all the world's books ("a web page for every book" is their current slogan). OpenLibrary is also recruiting libraries to join in the project by contributing digital scans of both in-copyright and out-of-copyright books, and offering the resulting eBooks to the patrons of other OpenLibrary members via an in-library lending program (or, with DRM, to be checked out by one patron at a time for two weeks, with a limit of 5 books at a time). COSLA, an independent organization of state librarians, has agreed to back the project, and the Oregon State Library is listed as a project participant, but few Washington libraries have signed on.

Future Trends: Used eBooks?

From **Slashdot**: "The New York Times reports that **Apple** and **Amazon** are **attempting to patent methods of enabling the resale of digital items like e-books and MP3s**. Establishing a large marketplace for people to buy and sell used digital items has the potential to benefit consumers enormously, but copyright holders aren't happy. Scott Turow, president of the Authors Guild, 'acknowledged it would be good for consumers — "until there were no more authors anymore."'

Future Trends: eBooks Creating Economic Pressures in Textbook Publishing

Is the content of a textbook a "commodity" that can be replicated freely? Students seem to think so; at least one startup is built on that premise. Publishers are, predictably, suing to stop the practice.

http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/3-major-publishers-sue-open-education-textbook-start-up/35994
http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/free-textbook-company-rewrites-its-content-following-publishers-lawsuit/
https://www.boundless.com/

Future Trends: The Web of Things/Near-Field Communication

Browseable virtual "books" that show up on smartphones used by subway riders near NYPL branches (conceptual project). The concept envisions the first 10 pages being readable for free by anyone (even without a library card). This would involve a hybrid -- a book and an ebook that would be connected through some mechanism (the ILS? something else?) to allow the virtual version to be browsed, and the physical version to be requested.

http://mashable.com/2013/03/12/virtual-library-nyc-subway/