

Academic Library Policy The Problem of Continuing Access

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e-Journals are forever? 26 April 2010**



Scene setting

- Introduction to the problem
- ‘Solutions’ analysed through the day
- Research library perspective
- Perspective from the individual library
- Minority of UK libraries participating in initiatives (LOCKSS/CLOCKSS/Portico), but ongoing concern

Studies

- CLIR, 2006 - E-Journal Archiving Metes and Bounds: A Survey of the Landscape
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub138abst.html>
- Much of the focus moved to preservation and curation of data, and digitisation and availability of books, but journal articles still foundation of research in most fields

Print position – individual library

- Once in stock, not discarded
- Catalogue – finding list
- Small/tiny proportion of research literature
- Inter-Library Loans
 - Researchers happy to wait
- Visits to other libraries

Print position – individual library - problems

- Never quite straightforward
- Availability
 - Binding
 - On loan
 - Missing/Misshelved
 - Articles torn out
 - Issues never received
 - Lack of catalogue detail
- Inter-Library Loan
 - Time
 - Available?

Print position – national/international

- Redundancy
- British Library/national libraries
- Legal Deposit
- But...
 - UKRR revealing gaps
 - Difficulty of being sure you have everything

Online availability

- Demand
 - 2-3m downloads/year
 - Immediate access
 - Continuing access
 - Reassurance
- Supply
 - 1997 362 ejnls, 2010 30,000+ ejnls
 - Never more than c7000 print jnls
 - 87% Arts/Soc Sci jnls online
 - Backfiles from major/many minor publishers

Business models

- Big deals
 - Expansion in availability/usage
 - Worked well
- But...
 - Hard financial times
 - Stability of content?
- Small publishers/individual titles
 - Threatened by Big Deal
 - Stability?
 - Open Access titles

Problems - Cancellations

- Access after cancellation
 - Suddenly becoming major concern
 - No access to new content...
- How secure is access to existing content?
 - Years paid for?
 - Moving wall?
 - Content previous to 'paid-for' years?
 - 'Subscribed' v 'Non-subscribed' titles?
 - Title transfers between publishers?

Problems - Cancellations

- Where does post-cancellation access come from?
 - On-site files (OhioLINK/U Toronto)
 - LOCKSS
 - Institutional Repository
 - DVD/CD
 - Publisher site
 - Portico
 - Central repository
- Licences
 - Importance of clauses
 - Standardisation
 - Content and source

Problems – Stock Discard

- Repurposing of libraries
 - Different use of space
 - Less print stock
 - More group study space/café/wireless access etc
- Relocating/discarding print
 - Particularly journal runs
 - Backfile access
 - JISC Collections
 - Capital funding – space opportunity cost

Problems – Stock Discard – Continuing access

- What exactly is coverage
 - Date/Titles
 - Not always complete run (change in publisher)
 - Sometimes discard anyway, if left with short disjointed run – always UKRR
- Usually on publisher server
 - How secure
 - Administrative control
 - Future proofing

Problems – Stock Discard – Politics

- Reassurance required
- UKRR very important (though print)
- Brand e.g. JSTOR (though continuing commitment)
- Insurance policy – Portico/CLOCKSS
- Print in fact hardly used, online much more so, last resort document delivery request from BL
- Current content now usually online only, so no local print fallback possible

Accessibility

- Big Deals/backfiles
 - Order of magnitude increase in complexity
 - Importance of link resolver provision
 - Metadata provision
 - Updating/maintaining data
 - Discoverability – webscale
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- Stuff may be available, but must be easy/practical methods of access

Preservation of the record

- National libraries
 - KB/British Library
- Portico/CLOCKSS
- Vitally important for future of research, ability to rely on continuing access over the centuries to documented research (and to data, not covering today)
- ...but main focus impact on individual library

Glasgow position

- Participant in LOCKSS pilot, current UK LOCKSS Steering Committee member
 - OpenLOCKSS Project
 - Libraries working together
 - Smaller perhaps more ephemeral publishers/titles
- SHEDL (Scottish Higher Education Digital Library) agreement on Portico membership
 - Larger publishers
 - Insurance
- UKRR participant
- Policy on online only subs for STM since 2003; moving to this for HSS this session
- JISC Collections
- UKSG

Priorities

- Standards
 - Licensing
 - Link resolvers
 - Metadata for title/publisher/coverage/entitlement
 - Preservation standards
- National/international registers
 - Examples today
- Access/Discoverability
 - Access Federation
 - Visibility of content

Priorities

- Working together
 - Libraries
 - SCONUL/RLUK
 - National libraries
 - Publishers
 - Service providers
 - Facilitators
 - DPC
 - JISC Collections
 - RIN
 - UKSG
 - Funders
 - Funding Councils
 - Research Councils

Thank you for your attention