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

• 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/discardng 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

- 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