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# Ebooks and libraries??

*Dale Flecker*

*9 May, 2007*



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# E-Journals

~~Ebooks and libraries~~

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# 1. Licensing is a *Big Deal*

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In the beginning...

Naiveté!

Conflicting world views!

Unrealistic expectations!



# After 15 years...

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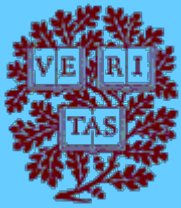
- Establish norms, shared understanding
  - Who is a legitimate user? What can they do? Who polices behavior? What performance is guaranteed? What happens when a license lapses? Who indemnifies who?
- Effort to replace licenses with a written, non-legalistic “understanding” (SERU )
  - Shared *E-Resource Understanding*



## 2. Archiving remains a difficult issue

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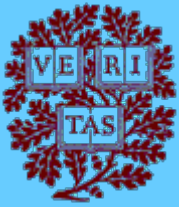
- Core requirement for research libraries
  - we buy for the ages....
- Model of remote access and annual subscription *to a service* breaks the traditional way archiving happened
- Sticky contractual issue
  - do you get “perpetual access”? how is that guaranteed? what happens if a publisher abandons content?



# Archiving...

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- Technically challenging
  - Implications for technical formats, metadata, DRM, repository architecture
- Who archives?
  - Library subscribers? Publishers? Third parties?
    - Institutional attributes as important as technical ones for long-term preservation
  - What rights does an archive have? What responsibilities?
- Who pays what?



# 3. Aggregation is common

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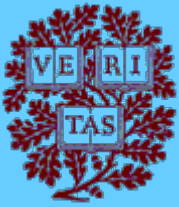
- Most e-journals licensed in “bundles”
  - and often the customers are consortia or “buying clubs”
  - lowers contractual overhead
- Most e-journals provided by aggregate platforms
  - Supports advanced features such as inter-content functionality, more useful search
  - Small publishers have difficulty keeping up technologically



# 4. Understanding usage

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- What utility/value am I getting for my money?
- In the natural course of things everyone counts slightly differently
- COUNTER
  - Counting *O*n-line *U*sage of *N*etworked *E*lectronic *R*esources
  - well-defined statistics in a standard format
- SUSHI
  - Standardized *U*sage *S*tatistics *H*arvesting *I*nitiative
  - protocol for the exchange of COUNTER data



# 5. Discovery is critical

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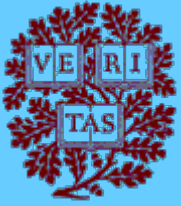
- Discoverability increases use (and therefore value)
- Journal publishers went from hostility (*my metadata is my intellectual property!*) to grudging acceptance (*I'll license it to you if I must*) to enthusiastic participation (*Index me! Index me!*)
- Google is critical today
- For books, library catalogs are critical
- More important: there can't be too many paths



# 6. Linkage

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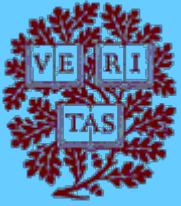
- Started with “citation linking”
  - Within a single publisher platform
  - Bi-lateral between publishers
  - Generalized infrastructure (based on DOI)
  - Extended to cover “appropriate copy”
- Inter-publisher, inter-platform
- Persistent and actionable
- Growing beyond citation...
  - “knowledge-bases”, reference resources...



# 7. Text-mining: early glimmers

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- Text as the fodder for computational analysis, not individual reading
- Somewhat different licenses (and possibly business models?)
- Requires technological support



## 8. Requirements for scholarly citation

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- \* Unambiguous

*(difficult in a digital world populated by many versions)*

- \* Persistent

- \* At a meaningful level

*(article level fine for journals, but what's needed for books???)*