

eBooks Hit Critical Mass: Where Do Libraries Fit with Oprah?

Solo Librarians Presentation

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What's an eBook????

- Readers
- Downloadable individual books
- eBook distributors to library channel
- Book databases (aggregators)
- Digital collections
- Google book search



Readers

- **Hardware / software**
 - **Screen size varies**
 - **Battery life improving**
- **Personal Computer**
- **Smartphone / PDA**
- **Special purpose**
 - **Kindle – Oprah’s favorite tech gadget**
 - **Sony**
 - **iPod Touch – Next bet....**



Downloadable Individual Books

- Title by title selection
- Individual retail purchases
- Institutional purchases for check-in /check-out
 - Overdrive Content Reserve
 - Netlibrary
- Direct from publisher
- Search within books, not across books



Book Databases

- **Characteristics**

- Subscription – annual, monthly, per seat, can be individual purchases
- Searchable across books / specialized features
- Hosted index

- **Examples**

- O'Reilly Safari – Programming & Technology
- eBrary
- Knovel
- Books24X7
- Scientific publishers



Digital Collections

- Converting from hard copy to digital is expensive and time-consuming
- Metadata crucial
- Access not automatically available

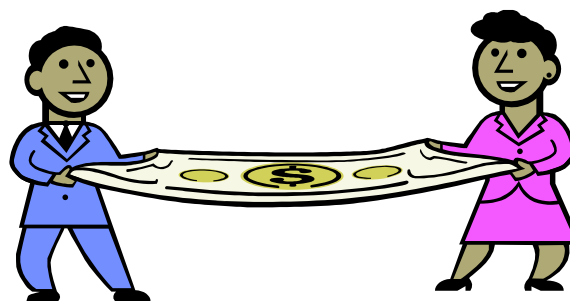




- Discoverability using index files
- Public access – no authentication
- Access to full text varies by title / publisher
 - Public domain – Project Gutenberg, Creative Commons
 - Free PDF's archived on websites
 - Google Partner Program
 - Google Library Project
- Collection Development ??????????

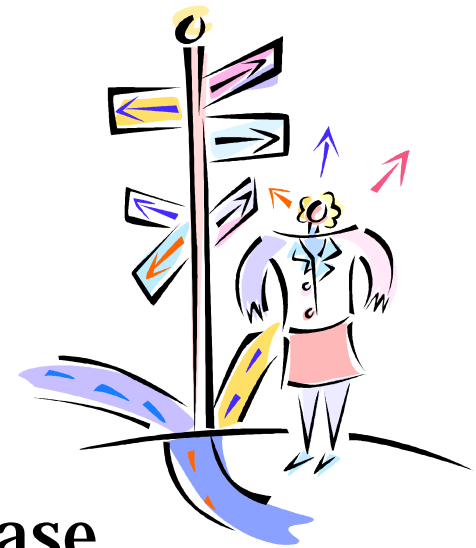
Why Libraries Buy eBooks

- Meets needs of remote users 24 / 7
- Solves multiple location issues
- Improve access to reference books
- Reduce loss of popular books
- Eliminate mis-shelving
- Solve space problems
- Increase efficiency of library staff – automatic check-in / check-out



Managing eBooks

- Publicly available vs. purchase
- Supported devices
 - Purchases in proprietary format
 - Personal documents – MS Office
 - Formats in general problematic
- Individual vs. institutional purchase
- Inclusion in the library catalog



Critical Mass in Publishing Industry

- Electronic edition same time as print
- Born digital books /Print on demand
- eBook aggregators
- High speed web access
- Merging of formats: Audio, Large Print, PDA, PDF
- Reader expectations
- Bottom Line: **MORE & MORE TITLES**



Discussion: Why would you buy ebooks????

Resources

- SJSU SLIS: www.slisweb.sjsu.edu
- Consulting: www.FindabilityMatters.com
- www.IveGotADomainName.com for ebook and print book *I've Got A Domain Name – Now What? A Practical Guide to Building a Website and Web Presence* (also Amazon)
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