

New Tools in Resource Sharing: Keeping Up With the Changes

Developments, Challenges, Opportunities

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Webinar Outline

- Compare past and current environments of resource sharing
- Discuss new features of this environment
- Discuss new challenges of this environment
- Brief review

I. The Past: Resource sharing in the print world

Resource sharing in the exclusively print environment was slow, costly, yet effective

Print World

- Slow turnaround time
- Relatively high cost (1996 Borrowing unit cost, mediated: \$18.35; Lending unit cost, mediated: \$9.48; Assessing ILL/DD Services Study: Initial Observations, Mary Jackson, ARL Oct/Dec 2003)
- Paper-based record keeping
- “manageable” number of books and journals: 1978 Science Citation Index Source List 2,752 journals; (today: Web of Science Core Collection 18,000+)
- Relatively slow pace of scholarly publishing

II. Rise of electronic resources presents new challenges

The shift from print to electronic library collections has dramatically changed the world of resource sharing. Along with the great benefits to users, challenges have arisen.

Challenges

- Evidence of a decline in traditional ILL demand: total annual requests in the NLM Docline system have decreased by two thirds since 2002 (FY2016=1.1 million requests) (I-Share borrowing and lending down 24% over the past 5 years)
- management of e-resources: date coverage, license and terms of use information, reliable link resolution
- discovery issues: big electronic collections with many vendors makes discovery and reliable paths to access difficult
- outdated models for managing resource sharing today: CONTU guidelines (1978) have remained unchanged, increase in volume and pace of scholarly communication and publishing, high copyright royalties, high commercial document delivery fees
- Inherent limitations of legacy interlibrary loan systems (lack of item availability information, etc)

III. The serials crisis and the rise of the open access movement

Open access publishing has emerged as a response to the “serials crisis”

Open Access

- “Serials Crisis”—increasing costs for (primarily) STEM journal subscriptions—research is produced by university faculty members, often supported by public research funds, published and then sold back at high cost to the libraries of their institutions
- OA momentum: Budapest statement, 2002; Berlin declaration 2003
- New model: Authors maintain copyright and access to content is freely available
- Gold OA and Hybrid OA—immediate access to final published version (note author’s fees, or Article Processing Charges, APCs)
- Green OA—access to manuscript version, usually after an embargo period
- NIH Access Policy: 2009 (“on or after April 7, 2008”) papers appear in PubMed Central

IV. Fragmentation of traditional ILL: new sources (tools) to draw on

Resource sharing practitioners now need to be aware of multiple new sources of open access and other freely accessible content

New Sources

- Open access repositories (mandated and voluntarily-contributed OA content) like PMC, BioMed Central, Europe PMC
- Discipline-based curated e-print or rapid-access repositories like arXiv (physics literature), bioRxiv (biology)
- individual OA journals (for example, those included in DOAJ)
- Digital repositories of scanned books and journals containing copyright date-determined accessible content (HathiTrust Digital Library, Internet Archive)

New Sources, continued

- academic institutional research repositories
- Commercial scholarly collaboration networks (commercial social media-like networking and paper-sharing sites Research Gate, Academia.edu)
- pirate peer-to-peer resources, like Sci-hub, Libgen

V. Managing the challenges of this new environment

The new developments under discussion present resource sharing practitioners with significant challenges in workflow and other areas

Multiple Challenges

- Discovery challenges: lack of a single tool to search for OA material
- reference and ILL workflow (for example, requests from our users for freely-available material)
- Version questions (are users satisfied with pre-prints and author manuscripts)
- Legal questions
- Patron education (how can we raise the level of our patrons' awareness of these resources)
- Predatory or questionable journals (OA publishing as a profit-making opportunity)
- Ethical questions of paper sharing (is it right to share copyright-protected material, even though copyright can impede access to information?)
- Recent action by Coalition for Responsible Sharing (an ad hoc publishers association) against ResearchGate

Conclusion

- Potential for the emergence of a new library service, augmenting traditional resource sharing
- Development opportunities for all levels of staff involved in resource sharing activity
- Increased need for expert searching skills
- Increased need for knowledge of new and diverse sources of open literature
- Increased opportunity for patron education efforts
- Increased opportunity for intra-library staff education
- Despite the impact these changes have had on the library world, the status quo for resource sharing will likely persist for the near future (book sharing has been largely untouched)

VI. Review

What we've discussed

Review

- The growth of the electronic library collection has changed the role of traditional library resource sharing
- There is some evidence of a decline in demand for traditional library resource sharing
- The rise of open access literature has given library users, particularly those in need of STEM literature, new avenues of access to information
- There is now the potential for the consolidation of a new library service, incorporating discovery assistance into the traditional resource sharing enterprise
- While profound, these changes have not made traditional interlibrary loan practices obsolete yet

Further reading:

- Banks, Marcus. What Sci-Hub is and why it matters American Libraries June 2016 pp 46-48 (overview of issues surrounding non-legal or pirate sharing of papers)
- Baich, Tina. Open access: help or hindrance to resource sharing? Interlending and Document Supply 2015, Vol. 43 Issue 2, p68-75, 8p (survey of impact of open access on resource sharing)
- Jamali, Hamid. Copyright compliance and infringement in ResearchGate Scientometrics 112 Issue 1 pp 241-254 (a review of some of the causes of problems with scholarly use of ResearchGate)
- McGrath, Mike. Viewpoint: Open access-a nail in the coffin of ILL? 2014 Interlending and Document Supply 42 (2): 196-198 (survey of impact of open access on resource sharing, with an emphasis on the UK and continental Europe)
- Schopfel, Joachim. Open Access and Document Supply Interlending and Document Supply 2014 42 (4): 187-195