

Licensing The E-journals: Taming The Subscription And Usage In Academic Environment

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses about e-journals, their usage in the academic environment in the light of licensing. It highlights the challenges for Libraries for the e-journals access and management. It discusses clauses and terms basic to every license. It highlights the general guidelines with respect to access and uses of e-Resources and a European Approach to Licensing E-Resources. It highlights Access Management Requirements and Guidelines for shifting journals from Print to Electronic-only Access it reflex E-journals and Library Services, Pricing policy. It concludes with the idea of distributed Publishing.

Keywords: e-journals, academic environment, licensing, access management.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries face challenges with the licensing of e-resources especially for e-journals. Libraries create new workflows to review and negotiate licenses. The inefficient system leads to higher costs, bottlenecks, and delayed or unfulfilled access. Under such conditions the users may not well serve, the financial resources are not maximized, and it leads to further chaos. The way of approaching online subscriptions can work because publishers and libraries have a decade of shared experience with e-resource licensing. A high level of trust is required based on amicable resolution of problems, and there is strong motivation to find an alternative (1).

Challenges for Libraries

The proliferation of e-journals has raised new access & management challenges for libraries.

These are as following:

- **Handling process -**
- **Subscription**
- **Licensing**
- **Evaluation**
- **Content**
- **Technical data**
- **Delivery -**
- **Awareness**
- **Access**
- **Linking**
- **Search**

Electronic journals offer enormous benefits. They provide users faster, more convenient, 24-hour desktop access from home or campus, as well as special features such as alerts. These e-journals also offer benefits to libraries such as saving the valuable space on library shelves, relieving the fear of being stolen or destroyed, and, depending

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on the license agreement, allowing many users to access information at the same time. Licensing resources in electronic format allows libraries to provide access to many more titles than they could afford to purchase and shelve in paper format (2).

CLAUSES AND TERMS BASIC TO EVERY LICENSE

Most digital information licenses include detailed language that specifies the right to access the information, the way information may be used, stored, and transmitted, liabilities for violations or misuse of the information by library users, accessibility, and the charges for accessing. Although each license is unique, common restrictions found in licenses for digital information products include the following:

- The content may be used only for non-commercial educational, clinical, or research purposes.
- Individuals who are not affiliated with the library that has licensed the product may not use the content, or may use content only when physically at the library.
- Printing and downloading of e-resources are generally subject to copyright restrictions.
- Altering, recompiling, systematic or programmatic copying, reselling, redistributing or republishing of electronic content are typically prohibited.

It must be kept in mind that license terms do not permit copying or downloading entire issues of a journal. This is also a violation of basic copyright principles. As a general rule, user may not e-mail full-text articles to unauthorized users. Distributors of electronic content use various tools to monitor types of usage but

not individual usage. They look for large-scale violations, such as systematic downloading of substantial portions of an electronic title. In these cases, whether the violations occur knowingly or unknowingly, the vendor will contact the library that holds the license and may suspend the university's access to the resource. As users may be aware, online access to licensed e-Resources (e-books, e-journals, bibliographic databases and other digital resources) are governed by the Terms of Use as per the Institutional license agreement between the library and the respective publishers (3).

(please see <http://www.library.iisc.ernet.in/e-Resourcesaccess.html>)

The e-Resources are licensed for the non-profit educational use of the Institute. Copyright law in addition to individual license agreements also governs use of the see-Resources. It may be noted that publishers do watch pattern of use (particularly downloads) of these resources. Any misuse is identified by the publisher precisely as to from which local system (its IP and Mac Address), the date & time and the number of articles / records viewed / downloaded etc. Any breach to the License agreement (misuse) would result in denying of online access to the resource by the publisher. Therefore users are suggested to adhere to the following general guidelines with respect to access and use of e-Resources (4);

ALLOWED

- Viewing / downloading of a small number (one or two) articles from an
 - o e-journal / one or two chapters from an e-Book is allowed.

- Downloading and electronically forwarding of articles.
- For precaution, the outsiders / visitors are allowed only with prior permission to access e-Resources from system in library.

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN APPROACH TO LICENSING E-RESOURCES

International licensing agreements moved a step nearer today with the announcement that Knowledge Exchange - an umbrella organization of four national ICT bodies - begun a multinational tender process to explore with publishers the possibility of cross-border licensing arrangements. With national licensing agreements for online resources well established in the four countries - the UK, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands - the aim of the initiative was to explore whether further economies of scale can be secured and new and innovative business models developed through an international approach. The proposal was published under European Union competition rules as a 'Request for Information' which invited publishers to submit initial proposals concerning possible business models. Following this stage, representatives of the four organisations - JISC, Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the SURF Foundation in the Netherlands - met with chosen publishers to develop proposals further. The announcement marked an important milestone for Knowledge Exchange, one of whose goals is to explore new and innovative licensing models and platforms for research. With the European Commission debating the future of scientific publishing last week, the announcement also marks an important development for Europe-wide approaches to making vital online resources more widely available (5).

ACCESS MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

All libraries rely usually on authentication and access management systems that are external to the systems and tools. These external systems may be as straightforward as simple reliance on the remote authorization mechanism of an online provider (via ip addresses or usernames and passwords), or as complex as a locally-developed access management service. The system assigns persistent identifiers to resources, passes connection requests to a system that validates users according to a local authentication scheme, and routes valid users through a proxy server. Institutions with complex local environments can be expected to have customized systems and tools in place with which to perform these functions, with which an e-journal system must interoperate.

The e-journal management systems are needed to accommodate both simple and complex environments with a varied range of needs. To accomplish this, the following set of generalized requirements is outlined below (6):

- Management of basic access-related information such as Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs), User IDs and passwords, and lists of institutional IP addresses;
- Support for the creation of persistent URIs and for additional data elements required to support complex local access management services, such as proxy servers; and
- A set of export functions by which an e-journal management system can communicate its information to a local system or service.

Specifically, it should be possible to:

1. Store and maintain access URIs (uniform resource identifiers) and make these actionable for end users according to local requirements

1.1. Store vendor-supplied primary and secondary URIs (e.g. for mirror sites) used for access to the resource.

1.2. Support the creation, storage, and updating of persistent URIs and/or integration with external systems for managing persistent identifiers

1.3. Support authentication and access systems (such as proxy servers, or statistics generating scripts), allowing for URIs to be constructed on the fly based on stored data elements

1.4. Generate notifications and/or exports of URI information to appropriate linked or external systems according to local requirements

1.5. Alternatively, provide seamless functional integration with external systems that record this information

2. Integrate Proxy server / access management such as proxy server access for all or selected users and all or selected resources

3. Store lists of IP addresses used to register access to specific resources and provide automated email notification to online providers when IP addresses are updated

3.1. Support the creation and maintenance of multiple lists of IP addresses that can be associated (or disassociated) with one or more licensed locations and linked to one or more bibliographic entities

3.2. For a given resource or online provider, indicate whether IP addresses are/were registered online, and record the registration URI

3.3. Send automated email notifications to vendors and providers when IP addresses

are updated, and record the date on which notifications are sent. Include the ability to also record an acknowledgement date. This implies the ability to designate a vendor or provider contact address for IP address notification purposes

4. Store one or more user IDs and passwords and provide the ability to generate secure screen displays of this information for authorized users and/or staff, with associated text or for javascript auto-submission.

5. Implement access restrictions

5.1. Record authorized user categories and authorized sites, including the ability to associate specific actions with those elements, such as

5.1.1. Generating staff and user displays

5.1.2. Implementing access controls

5.1.3. Exporting information to a local access management system (technical system in use at your institution such as an authentication system and/or proxy server

GUIDELINES FOR SHIFTING JOURNALS FROM PRINT TO ELECTRONIC-ONLY ACCESS

These guidelines may be used when deciding to move from reliance on a print journal subscription to electronic-only access. Librarians may also find useful guidance by reviewing the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) Statement of Current Perspective and Preferred Practices for the Selection and Purchase of Electronic Information (7).

1. Content

- Determine if the print and electronic versions have equivalent content. It is not unusual for the electronic version to lack some

material commonly found in the print version, such as advertisements and employment listings. Consider print usage, user (reader) expectations, and alternatives to the missing print content among other criteria in making a decision.

2. Scholarly Sharing

- The e-journal's license should allow for fair use and scholarly sharing of content.

3. Presentation & Printing

- The e-journal should provide access to digitally-generated print page images, preferably using Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF).
- The e-journal should support printer-friendly formats.
- Journals printed in color should provide high-quality color images for the electronic version.

4. Archiving & Ownership

- The e-journal's license should provide for permanent access to the content purchased under the subscription.
- Publisher or e-journal licensor should hold appropriate rights for permanent online display of content.
- Online access via a journal aggregator should not be considered a substitute for either print or online subscription.

5. Access Management

- Institutional site license should allow networked access via Internet Protocol (IP) Recognition, or some improved successor authentication options, for all authorized institutional users.
- The license should allow e-journal access within the library for members of the public.

6. Reliability & Availability

- Publisher or e-journal licensor should provide prompt technical support (as needed) and maintain a reliable, stable interface with performance clauses in the license to compensate institution in the event of extended downtime.
- Online content should be available before or no later than publication of the print version.
- Each separate e-journal title should have its own unique, durable URL for access to the publication.

7. User expectations and usage statistics

- Evaluate journal collections and communicate with primary journal user groups to receive feedback about e-only plans, and educate users regarding the benefits and challenges of moving to e-only access.
- Consider the characteristics and usage of each print title when deciding on e-only access, for example, some titles because of format and/or usage may lend themselves to being browsed in print.
- Publisher or e-journal licensor should provide timely, accurate and usable usage statistics for each e-journal under subscription or trial.
- Consider the journal's prominence within its discipline before cutting print subscription.

E-JOURNALS AND LIBRARY SERVICES

We are living in an information world which has unbelievable scientific and technological progress and the accompanying stresses and strains of society. So much information is being generated that we are conformed to 'Information explosion', 'Information pollution' and 'Exponential growth' of information. This is causing concern on the communication,

distribution, availability, access, and exploitation fronts of information, particularly so in science and technology, Management of information is thus drawing greater attention than ever before. One uses information sources either to acquire or to retrieve specific information or browse to discover new facts. Information itself is used to support or disprove a theory; describe and/or predict; development; modify an existing material entity or phenomenon; recreate and; or get psychological satisfaction.

A network system should be designed for use and that the principal user is the seeker of information, but the system must also be designed for librarians' use in carrying out their various duties. Under no circumstances, however, should the network be designed merely as a library tool. When designing a new system or a segment thereof it is necessary (a) to formulate the problem, (b) to choose appropriate objectives, (c) to define relevant factors in the environment, and (d) to use ingenuity in inventing new systems and new segments.

PRICING POLICY

Recognition and validation of an authorized user can be realized in three ways a) IP (Internet Protocol) address, b) user name of login and password) combination of a and b. Therefore in most of the cases the downloading of articles to the PC of the authorized user is permitted but as a rule the creation of a digital archive of electronic journals in the local environment of the library is prohibited. For the moment most of the publishers do not permit the systematic delivery of digital articles via ILL (interlibrary loan) systems.

Pricing policy for the electronic journals is different from publisher to publisher and several times within the same publisher it differs

from journal to journal. For the majority of the electronic journals the access to the electronic version is not changed with any additional cost. In some journals, publisher charge an additional subscription to the price of the printed edition. This surcharges rises generally from 5% to 25% of the price of the printed edition.

Of course there are a small number of journals of which the electronic subscription in double or even triple of the price of the printed one. However in the final budget of a library collection the annual surcharge for access to the electronic editions is less than 10% of the budget for the printed collection. This means 100 cost units for the printed edition + 10 cost units for the electronic one = 110 cost units as the final price. For the moment, it is not permitted the subscription to the electronic only edition. The only publisher permitting such an arrangements (Academic Press) charges its electronic only editions the same as the printed only editions, granting a discount (sic) of 75% of the price of the printed edition to the subscriber of the electronic edition that purchases also the printed one. This means 100 cost units for one of the two editions or 125 cost units for both of them. Generally the final 10% of the surcharges for the cost of access to electronic journals can be more reduced as a result of a reasonable exploitation of special prices and offers of journal packages.

LINKS AND DISTRIBUTED PUBLISHING

Links have the power to alter the character of journals fundamentally, most obviously in the development of "distributed publishing" in which users can find items of interest irrespective of the publisher. Ultimately, distributed publishing may transform the way in which individual documents are compiled by sharing components or "objects" figures say, from different sources, and by using network-based software processes,

or services, to enhance presentation. Links are important for a number of reasons:

—For users, links provide faster, more direct access to more information.

—For librarians, links support more effective information retrieval, especially from large archives, and can help with identified user phenomena such as “successive search episodes.”

—For publishers, links add value to works, but in this context links need to be applied in particular ways to make it easier to maintain and manage large numbers of documents. It is already clear from a number of publishing arrangements that the electronic scholarly literature will be dominated by cross-linking on citations between different journals and services. ISI links has been announced as its means of mediating citation linking between Web of Science, collaborating publishers, and subscribing institutions. Linking application where links are applied between different journals and documents directly managed by a single publisher have been described for the BioMedNed service, HighWire Press and the Institute of Physics. There is an accumulation of experience and research findings on the difficulties faced and errors committed by users and on the inadequacies of online systems and services. These provide useful ideas for improvements to the systems as well as on the factors to be emphasized in user orientation to interactive online search.

CONCLUSION

The information technology controls the problem of information explosion quite conveniently. There is a great change in the man’s hunger for information. The emphasis of information seeking behavior is laid on information storage,

information processing, information handling, information transfer and information retrieval technique. There have also been changes in the user education form those of the past. Earlier information agencies were mostly interested in issuing and returning of books and other reading material. But now, the information agencies are interested in producing information in various (documentary and non- documentary) forms and disseminating it by giving proper education to their users. Information systems are intended to provide each potential user with timely and relevant information, presented in a convenient form at minimum cost and effort. Creating an awareness of relevant information sources, enhancing users’ abilities to select the more appropriate information sources and systems for a given information need, and developing users’ knowledge and skills to retrieve or access the information required, and, if necessary, for post-retrieval processing and repackaging for effective use, all form integral parts of the interface between the user and the information system.

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