E-books Are Here to Stay – Are We Ready?

Access and Discovery

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Access: the Promise

• Immediate and remote access

• More than one user at a time

• Hyperlinking and searchability

• Read on a mobile device
Obstacles to Access

• Intellectual Property
  – Copyright issues
  – Digital Rights Management (DRM)

• Technology
  – Changing and complex
  – Document formats that are not flowable

• Accessibility
  – DRM and copyright lockout screen readers
Discovery: the Ideal

- One stop shopping in Primo
- Everything would be catalogued
- SFX functionality
Discovery: the Reality
Problems with Metadata

• Varying quality, depending on vendor

• Timeliness
  • Vendor metadata is often delayed
  • We have paid for the package, but lack a catalogue record
Discovery: the Reality
Links can be a moving target

• Changing platform results in broken links

• Access changes (from publisher site to SP)

• Multiple URLs; title available on numerous sites
Discovery: the Reality
Workload Issues

• One-off requests can be handled on a limited basis

• Some large digital libraries do not include records

• Batch cataloguing
  – Requires training; every batch is different
  – Editing, loading, deleting needs TUG coordination

• No time to turn on ebooks in SFX
  – Books, chapters do not show up in Primo Central
Some Responses

• Alternative Discovery
  – Lists of collections on a libguide

• Making ebooks visible
  – A pilot project: ebooks visible in the stacks

• Mobile device information
  – OCUL’s Mobile Ebooks libguide
Some Questions

• Are our users satisfied with the ability to download a chapter or should we push for the ability to read an entire book on a reader or mobile device?

• How critical is it that we turn ebooks on in SFX?

• How much user instruction should we provide for accessing ebooks, off-campus and on mobile devices?