

A photograph of a field of aloe vera plants. The plants are green with thick, pointed leaves that have small serrations along the edges. They are growing in rows, and the ground is visible at the bottom. The background is slightly blurred, showing more plants and a fence.

**E-books:  
Defining and Considering  
the Alien Invasion**

**ER&L 2008**

**Ted Koppel**

**Zoe Stewart-Marshall**

# Who we are

- **Ted Koppel, ILS Product Manager, Auto-Graphics, Inc. – formerly Verde ERM Product Manager at Ex Libris**
- **Zoe Stewart-Marshall, Electronic Resources Librarian, Cornell University, E-Resources Management Unit**

# Trying to Define E-books

- **Why?**
- **Good Luck!**
- **Industry is far from mature**
- **Library e-book management infrastructure is confusing at best**
- **Rapidly moving targets**

# Trying to define e-books – part 1

- **Based on broad description:**
  - **Publisher produced e-books**
  - **Mass digitized e-books**
  - **Locally produced e-books**



# Publisher produced e-books

- **Scanned copies of originally paper?**
- **Scanned, OCR'd, and re-typeset copies of originally paper?**
- **"Native digital" e-books**
  - **Delivered as HTML?**
  - **Delivered as PDF or other digital format?**

# Mass digitized e-books

- **Google Books, Open Content Alliance as examples, but other projects**
- **Digitized from paper from contributing libraries**
- **Access, copyright, linking, discovery issues**

# Locally produced e-books

- **Often stored / available in institutional repositories**
- **Digitization options as in publisher produced**
- **Indexing and access?**
- **Copyright management and control?**
- **Stability?**

# Trying to define e-books - part 2

- **Discovery tools**
  - **Publisher produced – records in catalog?**
  - **Locally produced – records in catalog, local effort. Dublin Core? OAI harvesting?**
  - **Mass digitized: probably no records in catalog unless you're a contributor, and even then ... (Google's new project)**



# Trying to define e-books - part 3

- **How they are acquired**
  - **Publisher produced: most often as sets (or packages, like e-journals). Some interesting variations, like:**
    - **Quantity subscription where titles rotate**
    - **Purchase/access to e-books *by chapter***
  - **Mass digitized: not purchase; use is generally open for all**
  - **Locally produced: usually local, no charge – but cost issues with storage, upkeep, maintenance, and stability long term**

# Trying to Define, part 4

- **Permissions for Use**
  - **Publisher produced: usually fairly strict rules on use, audience, downstream use, etc.**
  - **Open Access: free to use, some rules on use and distribution**
  - **Locally produced: usually but not always Open access. Who manages the license?**
  - **Mass digitized: wide open ... except for titles that aren't.**

# Trying to define, part 5

- **Interface and platform environments**
  - **Publisher produced: almost always publisher hosted: many e-publishers means a highly diverse and inconsistent set of delivery platforms**
  - **Locally produced: on local IR, more-or-less consistent**

# Platform Environment

## – Mass digitized

- Dependent on which mass digitization collection is being used
- Snippet view, no view, partial view, no view

# Trying to define, part 6

- **OpenURL linking to the e-book**
  - **Publisher produced: often, especially if record was added to catalog**
  - **Locally produced: often, if record was added to catalog**
  - **Mass digitized: not easily, not likely**

# Trying to define, part 7

- **Management in the library**
  - **Publisher produced: ERM department or some variation of monographic and serials acquisitions**
  - **Locally produced: depends on who controls the IR – accessioning, de-accessioning, providing access, hardware and software upkeep and additions, cataloging, etc.**



# Part 7 continued

- **Management in the library**
  - **Mass digitized: maybe.**

# I could go on and on ...

- **Many ways to slice and dice the definition**
- **Depends on your point of view**
  
- **There is no one single and immutable definition of an e-book ....**
  
- **As e-books permeate library services, we have to keep these definitions in mind**

# On to the pragmatic

- **Chaotic and/or unstructured**
- **Fast, fast, fast**
- **Unrealistic expectations**
- **Overwhelming**
- **Whoever said being a librarian was a low stress job, didn't work with e-resources let alone e-books**

# User Expectations

- **What's in a name?**
- **Expectations of print books**
  - **Perpetual ownership**
  - **Cover to cover vs. discrete parts/snippets**
  - **Fixed and cite-able**
- **Expectations of digital resources**
  - **Available 24x7**
  - **Manipulate-able**
  - **Current and updated**

# Discovery and Access

- **Discovery**
  - **Google**
  - **WorldCat and WorldCat Local**
  - **Library Catalogs**
  - **Title level vs. Collection level**
  - **A to Z lists**

# Discovery and Access (cont.)

- **Access**
  - From citation to full text
  - Get It
  - Link Resolvers
  - xISBN and other services and standards
  - ILL and cooperative services



# Collection Development

- **Just in time vs. just in case**
  - Title by title
  - Approval plans
- **Subject packages**
- **Publisher packages**
- **Backfiles**
- **Open access/IRs/Open Content Alliance**

# Acquiring and Managing

- **Subscription vs. Purchase**
  - Continuation vs. firm order
- **Purchase plus maintenance**
  - Firm order plus continuation
- **Multiple vendors and multiple interfaces**
  - Locating and ordering specific titles

# Acquiring and Managing (cont.)

- **Perpetual access vs Perpetual ownership**
  - What happens when you stop paying for access
- **Local hosting vs Remote hosting**
- **Licensing – when everything is an exception**
- **Staff – mainstreaming vs. separate streams**

# Conclusions

- **You're kidding, right? You were expecting answers? That said...**
- **There is no one single and immutable definition of an e-book ....**
- **As e-books permeate library services, we have to keep these differentiations in mind**

# Conclusions (cont.)

- **Define the resource and then apply a workflow that works**
- **Change is a constant. The agile organization is a must. This is a transitional period**
- **The volume is only going to increase. Batch processing will play a role**



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**Questions?**

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