



E-book Policy and Practice Breakout Session
CRKN Annual General Meeting, September 2008
Montréal, QC

Objective:

The purpose of this breakout session is to provide a forum for members to discuss policy and practice issues related to CRKN's recent acquisition of a critical mass of e-book content through the DCI project. These acquisitions represent CRKN's first experience licensing content in the e-book format, and the process has presented new challenges for negotiators, members and staff. The challenges associated with licensing a new form of content was exacerbated in the context of an undeveloped e-book marketplace. The intent of this session is to gather constructive feedback from the membership that will inform the Negotiations Resource Team and CRKN staff for subsequent e-book licensing initiatives.

Background:

CRKN concluded two major agreements for e-book content through the DCI project: an agreement with Gibson Library Connections (GLC) for the *Canadian Electronic Library Publishers Collection* (8,131 English and French titles); and an agreement with Ingram Digital Group (IDG) for collections of e-books published by *Taylor & Francis* (11,697 titles), *Oxford University Press* (5,038 titles) and *Cambridge University Press* (2,431 titles). An agreement was also reached with IDG for a forward list of 1000 e-books (equally distributed between the three publishers), to be published over the term of the agreement (2008-2011). A total of 28,297 e-books were licensed through the project. Unprecedented e-book licensing terms were secured in both agreements with regards to access, portability of content and local loading as defined below:

Access: Access to e-books is provided as an unlimited site license validated through IP ranges. This means that each university enjoys unlimited use throughout the license term and after its expiry (for authorized users as stated in the License Agreement).

Portability: The e-books have the option to be unbundled from a delivery platform or service provider to enable migration to a local system, repository and/or alternative delivery systems.



Local Loading/Hosting:

Archival rights in perpetuity have been secured in order to retain the option to make the licensed content available on a platform of our choice, anytime during the term of the agreement, for the use of authorized users. This would mean that participating CRKN members would have the option to remove the licensed ebooks (image files for the full-text content; and the header data such as DTD or XML schema and metadata) from the vendor's platform to a local system, as mentioned above.

In addition, the negotiators were able to obtain more flexible Digital Rights Management (DRM) terms. For the agreement with GLC, the DRM setting limits for printing or copying on the vendor's platform (ebrary) were negotiated from 5% to 30%. The higher setting will permit more liberal use of the material than normally permissible from the vendor and allowable under the copyright legislation. For IDG, the DRM setting limits on the MyiLibrary platform were negotiated up to 20%.

Questions for discussion:

- 1- The large-scale acquisition of e-books by CRKN has profound impacts on collection development. What challenges do you face in this area, and what strategies have you considered or already implemented?
- 2 – E-books present specific challenges for library workflow, in particular acquisitions and cataloguing. Do you have workflow issues in relation to this e-book content, and how have you dealt with these issues?
- 3 - As large-scale e-book acquisition is a major change in collection practice and service to the user community, what issues or challenges will you face in rolling out this e-book content to students and faculty?
- 4- CRKN negotiated groundbreaking licensing terms for these e-book collections, as has been noted above. How will these licensing terms affect your library and institution, and what improvements or changes would you like to see in the future?
- 5 - As it is essential for CRKN to be sensitized to the needs of its members, and to respond to these needs, what feedback can you provide to CRKN that would be valuable for the future consideration of e-books in another round of content expansion?