

Electronic Journals: Annotated Bibliography

Books

Bazillion, R. J., & Braun, C. L. (2001). *Academic Libraries as High-tech Gateways: A Guide to Design & Space Decisions*. Chicago: American Library Association.

The authors of this book examined the consequences of this change in terms of physical space. As the demand for electronic resources and the methods to access them continued to grow, libraries had to reevaluate the actual layout of their buildings in order to compensate. Electronic journals have played a role in this time of change: as libraries began moving their journal collections away from print and toward online formats, the space that had been formerly occupied by print collections could be repurposed for other functions, such as increased study space (Fourie 2001).

Curtis, D. (2005). *E-Journals: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians*. New York: Neal-Schuman.

As described by its title, this resource is a guidebook for librarians interested in the specific traits of electronic journals. Cyndi Nicotera explained in her review (Nicotera, 2005) that each chapter goes into great detail about a specific aspect of electronic journals such as developing, licensing, ordering, and receiving. Nicotera suggests that by using this book, librarians will be able to approach a “daunting” process with more confidence. The ease of use contributes greatly to the ease understanding by its readers.

Curtis, D., Scheschy, V. M., & Tarango, A. R. (2000). *Developing and managing electronic journal collections*. New York: Neal-Schuman.

At the time of the publication of this book, libraries were beginning to develop their online journal collections. Curtis served as contributor to this book before writing *E-Journals: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians*, so it is interesting to see where some of the concepts covered by the later work began. Johnson notes in her review (Johnson 2002) that each chapter serves as workbook in itself, explaining ideas and outlining procedures. Some of the ideas may be outdated for certain libraries now-using a Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word to produce a full journal list, for instance-but it could be an invaluable point of reference for libraries beginning their conversion (Johnson 2002).

Journal articles (Scholarly)

Brady, E. E., McCord, S. K., & Galbraith, B. (2006). Print versus Electronic Journal Use in Three Sci/Tech Disciplines: The Cultural Shift in Process. *College & Research Libraries*, 67(4), 354-363.

Journals with a focus on science, technology and medicine (STM) were some of the first to be embraced in the online-only format. This transition is documented at one university in this article, but it can easily be translated across many others. Faculty and students were initially hesitant to give up their print issues, but they reconsidered as the restraints of print issues (e.g. access, issue availability) did not apply with their electronic counterparts. Familiarity also makes a difference as more users move beyond their initial reservations and become better acquainted with these resources.

Davis, P. M. (2004). For Electronic Journals, Total Downloads Can Predict Number of Users. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 4(3), 379-392.

Usage statistics are some of the best gauges to determine the journals that are used. By counting the number of downloads to a particular IP address, whether in HTML or PDF format, it is easier to correlate the number of actual users with these objects and weed out unnecessary duplication and other mistakes. Project COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) goes further by establishing industry-wide standards among publishers and vendors that would provide information to libraries that would be across the board.

Fosmire, M., & Young, E. (2000). Free Scholarly Electronic Journals: An Annotated Webliography. *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*(28). Retrieved October 1, 2008 from <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/00-fall/internet.html>.

This bibliography (or “webliography”, as coined in the article) serves a companion to the article “Free Scholarly Electronic Journals: How Good Are They?” It provides a list of resources that were consulted to create the parent article as well as documenting a list of free scholarly journals that were available at the time of publication. It also confirms the scholarly nature of each journal by providing where each resource has been indexed.

Fosmire, M., & Yu, S. (2000). Free Scholarly Electronic Journals: How Good Are They? *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*(27). Retrieved October 1, 2008 from <http://www.istl.org/00-summer/refereed.html>.

Access to scholarly journals for libraries often becomes a matter of cost. Libraries have to carefully select journal subscriptions in order to maintain a balanced collection and

support the academic mission of its respective collection. The advent of free journals has become a viable alternative for libraries, as some of these journals have begun to exhibit a measurable impact factor in their respective fields in terms of research and indexing.

Hahn, K. L. (2005). Tiered Pricing: Implications for Library Collections. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 5(2), 51-163.

Publishers have introduced a graduated, or tiered, pricing model to determine the cost of a journal by a potential subscriber. These can either be on an individual title basis or in a collection of titles, such as a database or journal package. Tiers are often determined by the size and scope of an institution, and they can vary by the publisher that sets the arrangement. This can also pose a challenge to collection managers as the cost for certain journals may be greater than others, leading to a possible scramble to find funds to cover a substantial increase.

Jasper, R. P., & Sheble, L. (2005). Evolutionary Approach to Managing E-Resources. *The Serials Librarian*, 47(4), 55-70.

The authors are librarians at Wayne State University, which has devoted 60 percent of its \$7 million dollar materials budget toward electronic resources. It has been a process that has led to a transformation in budget practices, cataloging, technology, and even staffing. The next phases at the time the article was written was to refine workflows and implement an electronic resources management system (ERMS) to handle the specific needs of electronic resources outside of the integrated library system (ILS).

Kaur, A. (2007). Electronic Journals and Scholarly Communication. [Feature Article]. *Information Studies*, 13(4), 227-239.

This article details the movement in academic libraries away from traditional print journals and toward their electronic counterparts. It covers the origins of electronic journals from simple text files to contemporary PDFs and HTML formats. The roles of various participants- researchers, libraries, and publishers- are also examined as each party is working to provide a level of service that would serves the needs of the others. The contributions by each stakeholder, as asserted by the author, should move toward an environment where information is accessible to all users without commercial interests being the deciding factors.

Martell, C. (2005). The Ubiquitous User: A Reexamination of Carlson's Deserted Library. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 5(4), 441-453.

Scott Carlson wrote in his landmark article that academic libraries were becoming deserted buildings as more users access collections online (Carlson 2001). The author

acknowledges this point in the article, confirming that the needs of library users have changed to reflect a changing environment. In terms of journal subscriptions, the rising costs of print have led to more libraries purchasing electronic journals, but the needs of users to access the correct resources have not diminished. As the number of electronic journals continue to rise, this concern will only grow over time.

Montgomery, C. H. (2000). Measuring the Impact of an Electronic Journal Collection on Library Costs; A Framework and Preliminary Observations. *D-Lib Magazine*, 6(10).

The costs involved with building an electronic journal collection are not limited to subscription prices. Electronic journals carry a number of additional costs that cannot be quantified as easily, such as staffing, training, interlibrary loan and developing new workflows. License agreements have been aspects of management that libraries have not had to consider when print resources were widely prevalent, as are consortia arrangements that give a group of libraries wider purchasing power. The goal is for libraries to maximize access at the best cost.

Rowlands, I. (2007). Electronic journals and user behavior: A review of recent research. *Library & Information Science Research*, 29(3), 307-450.

Institutions that have had access to the content from electronic journals for several years have begun to measure new behaviors in their users. As their comfort level has grown, users have begun to adapt their research strategies to take advantage of this format. Like any other tool or resource, users have developed their own strategies for how to use it effectively to achieve their research needs. Browsing print journals cannot be translated easily into the electronic environment, so other options must be considered.

Sridhar, M. S. (2007). Information Management in Digital Environment: A Librarian's Perspectives. *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology*, 27(4), 45-50.

The author makes the argument that libraries have made the shift from library management toward "information management, content management, and knowledge management". In the case of electronic journals, the medium has begun to shift away from a mere duplicate of a print journal toward an object that takes full advantage of the online medium. Access has been granted to cover a larger numbers of journal packages that would have been unaffordable in print. These collections must be reviewed on a constant basis to assess their value to users.

Stemper, J., & Barribeau, S. (2006). Perpetual Access to Electronic Journals: A Survey of One Academic Research Library's Licenses. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 50(2), 91-109.

The issue of access has become more important as libraries have shifted their journals online and abandoned their print runs altogether. With initiatives such as JSTOR and LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe), libraries have become more comfortable electronic journals knowing that a print backup was located elsewhere. At the same time, licensing agreements should be reviewed by libraries to insure that their access is guaranteed against unforeseen circumstances, such as a journal moving from publisher to another. The phrasing of these contracts is as important as the materials they cover, and libraries should be able to use these contracts to their benefit as easily as content providers.

Wittenbach, S. (2003). Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Electronic Journals But Were Afraid to Ask. *The Serials Librarian*, 44(1/2), 11-24.

This article was a write-up of a conference presentation. It covered the basics of electronic journal acquisition and access, but it went further by citing the importance of informing public services staff as well as patrons. This benefits the user by providing an awareness of these resources that will not only show promote their use but also confirms their existence. These measures will demonstrate their significance as usage statistics become the benchmark for ascertaining the worth of a journal during review and renewal periods.

Newspaper article

Hafner, K. (1999, April 8). Books to Bytes: The Electronic Archive. *The New York Times*. Retrieved September 14, 2008 from <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F05E7DD1738F93BA35757C0A96F958260&sec=&spon=>.

In this article, the author examines the challenge libraries face when preserving electronic journals. Libraries face new questions that were not associated with print journals such as access, license agreements ownership and purchasing. Further, there is the need to ensure that these articles can be viewed by all users, regardless of the operating system they are using to reach the article. These goals may be too ambitious, but it is the attempt that may lead to a permanent solution (Wardrip-Fruin 1999).

Websites

DeAngelis, C. D. (editor in chief). (n.d). JAMA Audio Commentary. Retrieved October 1, 2008 from <http://jama.ama-assn.org/misc/audiocommentary.dtl>.

This website is a list of podcasts from the Journal of the American Medical Association. Each podcast is a summary and commentary of the contents of each published issue.

This service expands upon the traditional electronic journal by providing an audio file that can be downloaded and digested by potential users. These podcasts have been offered since March 2006, and this nesting page has been linked by several medical libraries, such as the Duke University Medical Center Library (Isenberg, n.d.).

Russell, S. D. (n.d.). E-Journals.org: Providing links to the world's electronic journals. Retrieved September 27, 2008, from <http://www.e-journals.org/>.

This website provides a comprehensive list of electronic journals. Content is grouped by subject, featured sites, and free online, full text authors. Although the grouping is fairly broad, the content does cover a cross section of disciplines. As part of the WWW Virtual Library, this site is reviewed frequently and the links are kept up to date. As a result, libraries- especially smaller and foreign libraries- have a link to online resources (WSU Stewart Library, n.d.).

White paper

Inger, S. & Gardner, T. (2008). *How Readers Navigate to Scholarly Content* [White paper]. Retrieved September 24, 2008 from <http://www.sic.ox14.com/howreadersnavigatetoscholarlycontent.pdf>.

As covered by Steven Bell in his review (Bell 2008), this white paper was prepared for scholarly publishers to examine how users access scholarly content from library websites. The authors of the paper determined that a more users are accessing information at either the article or abstract level, taking advantage of the searching capability within journals. Bell notes that the Table of Contents (TOC) has become a valuable tool for faculty researchers, and it has become a popular service for faculty at his institution.

References

Bell, S. *Faculty Place High Value On TOC Alerts*. Retrieved September 25, 2008 from <http://blog.library.temple.edu/liblog/archives/2008/09/faculty-place-h.html>.

Carlson, S. (2001). The Deserted Library: As Students Work Online, Reading Rooms Empty Leading Some Campuses to Add Starbucks. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 48(12), A35-A38.

Fourie, I. (2001). Book review: Academic libraries as high-tech gateways: A guide to design & space decisions (2nd Edition), by Richard J. Bazillion & Connie L. Braun. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 52(11), 983.

Johnson, J. L. (2002). Review: Developing and managing electronic journal collections. *Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services*, 26(1), 80.

Nicotera, C. (2005). [E-Journals]. [Book Review]. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31(5), 491.

von Isenberg, M. (n.d.) Duke University Medical Center Library- Medical Podcasts. Retrieved October 2, 2008 from <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/subject/podcasts>.

Wardrip-Fruin, N. (1999). Hypermedia, Eternal Life, and the Impermanence Agent. *Leonardo*, 32(5), 353-358.

WSU Stewart Library – Science Internet Resources (n.d.) Retrieved October 2, 2008 from <http://library.weber.edu/cm/sci/source.cfm>.