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High Stakes in the Stacks: Could ebooks Replace A Print Collection Today?

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The plausibility of creating an all-digital collection

HIGH STAKES IN THE STACKS

The question

- Could we replace our print collection with electronic resources right now and still be able to support student and faculty research and learning?
- Looked at availability in Google Books (based on anticipated settlement) and via YBP's GOBI

- “Let us welcome the journey and be open to many destinations”
 - Clifford Lynch “The battle to define the future of the book in the digital world,” 2001.

Royal Roads University



RRU Library

- Royal Roads University est. 1995
- Former military college
- Leadership, Conflict Management, Environmental Science, and Business (Entrepreneurship)
- Collection of mixed depth

Digital collections, not digital libraries

- Libraries are about helping people find, manage, and use information
- Services are central
 - Reference
 - Instruction
- Space for collaboration is important
- Preservation of local knowledge

Journals and Reference works

- Started in mid-90s
- Estimated 70-80% available electronically now
- 90-95% in next 10-15 years
- Already past the tipping point

RRU Library collection

- 50,000 print books
- 100,000 ebooks
- 100+ research databases
- Institutional repository for theses, faculty research
- Archives

Determining sample size

- Collection c. 50,000 volumes
 - $95\% \pm 5 = 381$
- Circulation in 2010 c. 4,000 volumes
 - $95\% \pm 5 = 351$

Google Books


- The Settlement primarily focuses upon the universe of copyright books that are out-of-print
- Google estimates 70% of books are in this category

Institutional subscriptions


- The database will include all in copyright, out of print books (probably around 20 million titles)
- Yearly subscription
- Subsets representing discipline-based collections

Google Books

- No preview
- Limited preview
- Snippet view
- Full text

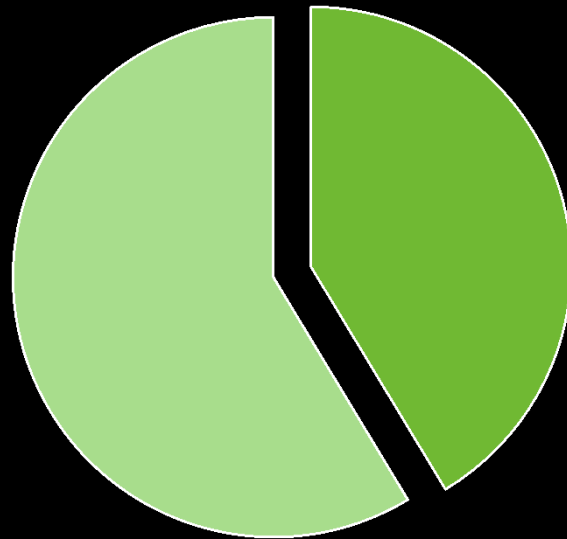


Not available in the ISD
Limited preview through
publisher agreement



Available in the ISD,
represents most books (c.
12 million, of 20 million
scanned)

Full collection



- Available via Google Books Settlement
- Not available via Google Books Settlement

Titles that circulated in 2010



- Available via Google Books Settlement
- Not available via Google Books Settlement

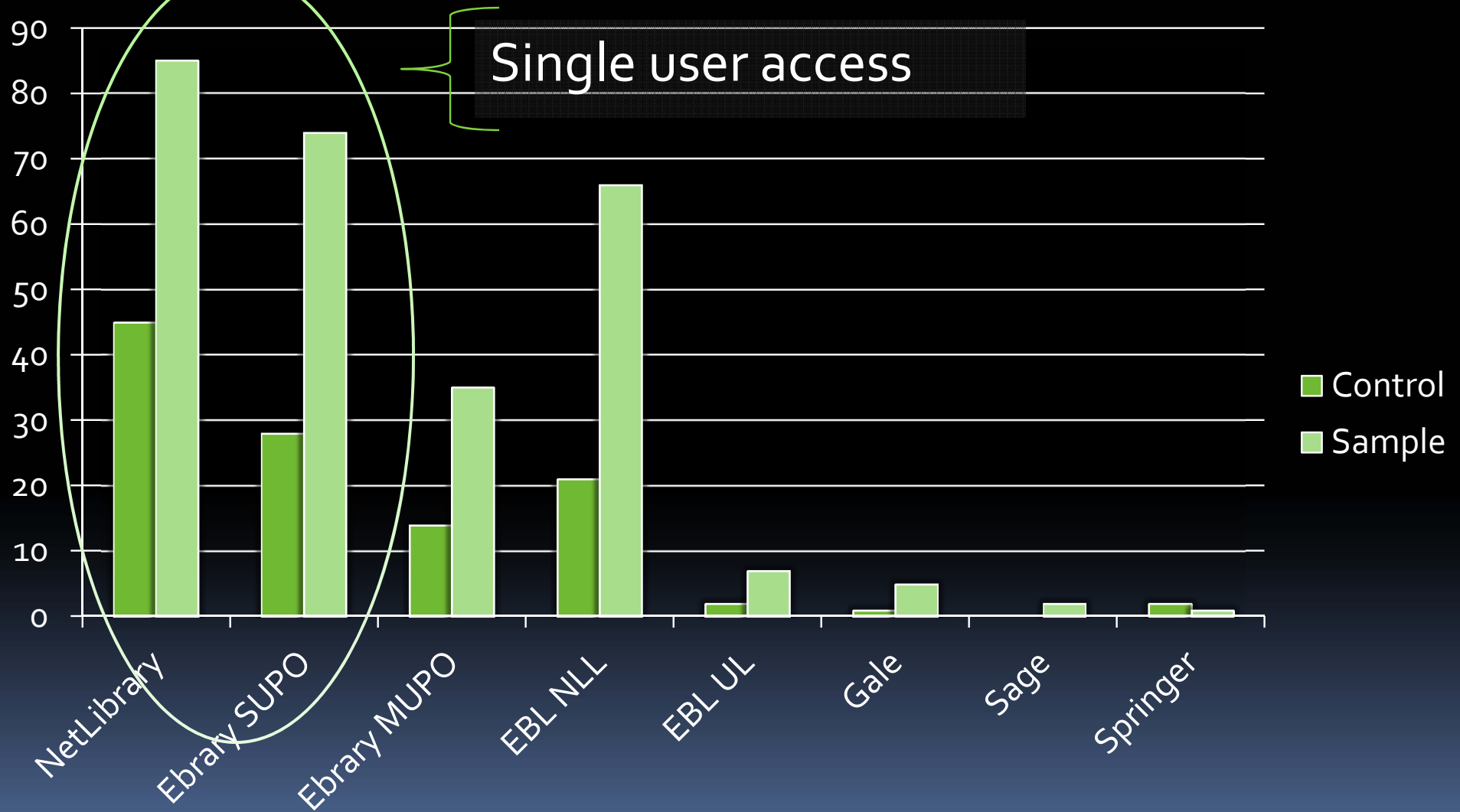
International context

- Google Books subscriptions will only be available in the U.S.

YBP

- GOBI offers one-off purchases on the following platforms
 - NetLibrary
 - Ebrary multiple user and single user
 - EBL non-linear lending and unlimited
- As packages
 - Gale, Springer, Sage

Ebook availability in GOBI



Surprising coverage for circulating titles

- 12% of collection overall available commercially as ebooks in GOBI
- 25% for circulating collection

But limited preferred access

- Only 4% of collection as a whole available with unlimited multiple users
- 11% for circulating collection

Google books and OOP

- All 101 titles available electronically from the circulating collection will NOT be available via Google Books subscription

All together

- 49% of collection as whole available via Google Books and GOBI
- 46% of circulating collection

Add the aggregators

- 100,000 titles
 - Ebrary, Mylibrary, Books24X7, NetLibrary
- Reasonable to assume 5-10% overlap
 - 2009 Claremont University Consortium study found 70% unique titles in print vs. major aggregators

Final tally

- Upwards of 60% of book collection available electronically in some form
- 'Backfiles' via GB
- Current content via individual purchase and aggregators (25-35%)
- ...And via Google Books (20%)

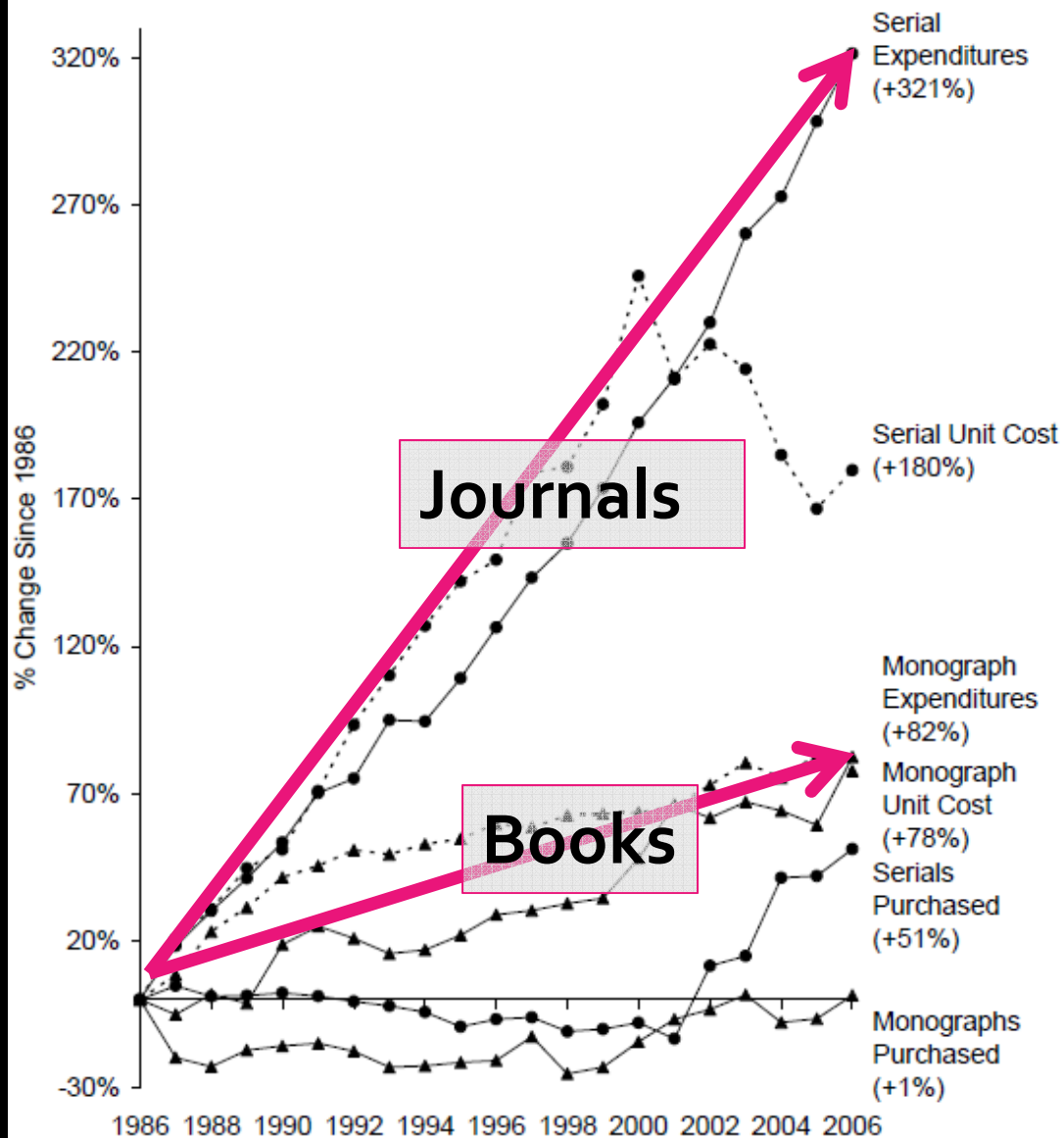
Babel of ebooks

- For in-print titles, multitude of models
- Packages, aggregators, individual purchase, patron-driven acquisitions

Price tag, subscriptions

- Lower per-title cost
- “Owing to the skyrocketing cost of serials, libraries that used to spend 50 percent of their acquisitions budget on monographs now spend 25 percent or less.”

Monograph and Serial Expenditures in ARL Libraries, 1986-2006*



Source: ARL Statistics 2005-06, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C.

*Includes electronic resources from 1999-2000 onward.

Price tag, individual titles

- Current YBP discount around 14%
- Individual ebook titles are not discounted
- Premium charged for MUPO (ebrary) and UL (EBL)

Copyrighted Material

ANXIETY

and Its Disorders

THE NATURE
AND TREATMENT
OF ANXIETY
AND PANIC

Second Edition

DAVID H. BARLOW

Supplier	Purchase Option	List Price	Status	Library Availability	Preview
+ EBL	Non-Linear Lending™	85.00 USD	Available	No contract on file	Preview
+ EBL	Unlimited	127.50 USD	Available	No contract on file	Preview
+ ebrary	Multiple User Option (MUPO)	127.50 USD	Available	No contract on file	Preview
- ebrary	Single User Option (SUPO)	85.00 USD	Available	No contract on file	Preview
Downloadable: No			Available To Consortia: No		
Date Added: 4/25/2008			Handled On Approval		
eCollections: PS PSYCH			YBP-US: 4/30/2008		
+ NetLibrary	Varies by subaccount	85.00 USD	Available	No contract on file	

Anxiety and its disorders

- Same title in paper \$60
- Discount to \$52
- MUPO ebook \$127
- 2.4X more expensive

Other \$ considerations

- Books are PST exempt at point-of-sale (7%)
- Ebooks are not
- Support fees for delivery platform
 - (e.g. NetLibrary 15% of the retail cost of the content for 5 years)

Potential to realize value

- Full-text searching
- Textual analysis of corpus
- Patron-driven acquisitions
- Low cost per title for consortial-negotiated aggregator packages

Potential to realize value

- Redeploy staff
- Electronic storage costs less than print

Collection by LC class



Collection as available in GB



Collection via GOBI ebooks



Circs w/ ebooks in GOBI

CB
LC RC
GE
KZ
QA

BL
DS
GT
PN

TX
TD
RA

TK
BF
JZ
QH ML

GB
GN

SK HF LB HC HN
HV

Concerns at my library

- Models need to integrate with online courses
- EBL Non-linear lending (95% of EBL titles)
 - up to 325 total loans (beyond a free 10 minute browse period) per year / per copy of title owned.
- Ebrary SUPO
 - Only allows one person to view an *ebrary* title at a time
 - MUPO costs 150% more

NetLibrary



NetLibrary®

Welcome to the Royal Roads University eContent Collection

eBook Details



We're sorry, your library's copies of this eContent are currently in use. You may use the option(s) below.

- [View the Table of Contents of this title now](#)
- [Request to be notified when this title becomes available](#)

Capitalism From Within: Economy, Society, and the State in a Japanese Fishery

by [Howell, David Luke](#).

Concerns at my library

- “You can easily order a print book but you may need to consult an attorney before you order an ebook”
- Managing dynamic collections via the catalogue
- Extra expense of ebook metadata in Summon

Usability is a big issue

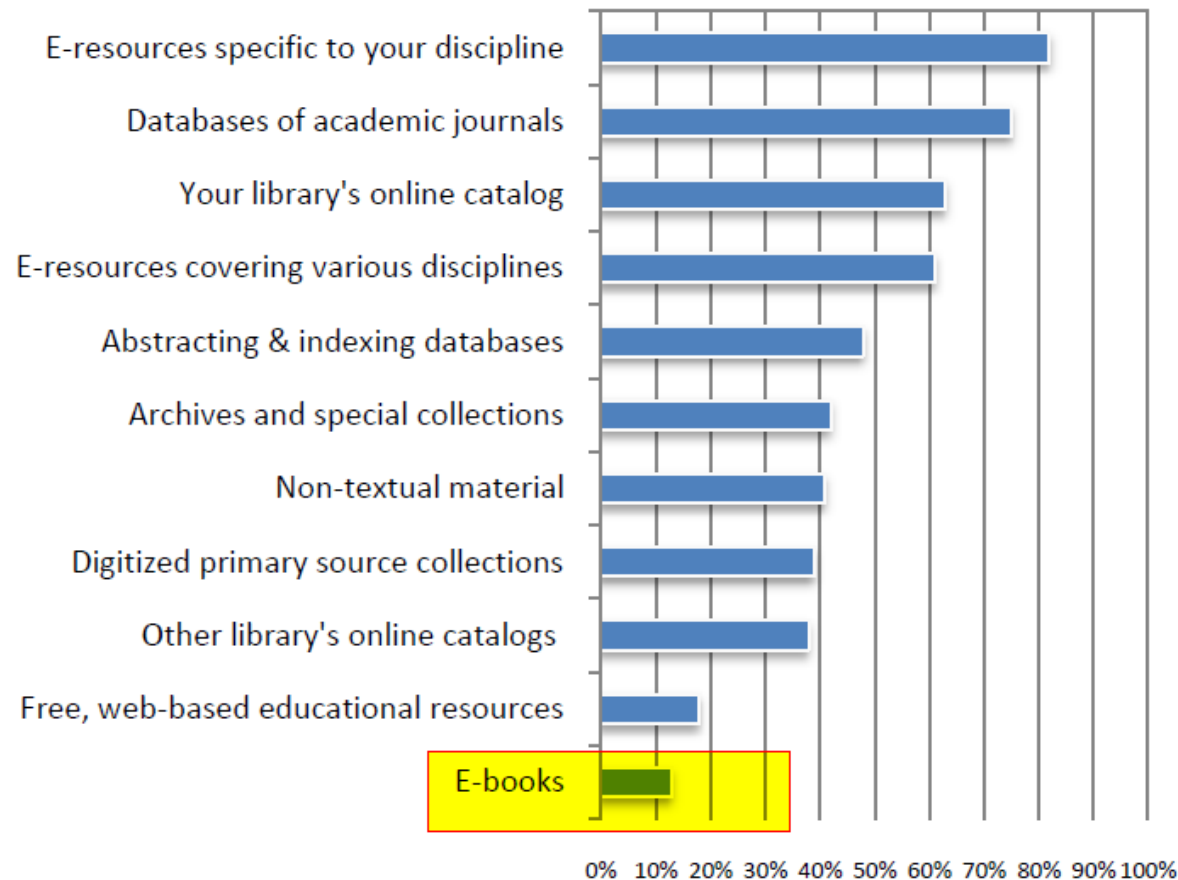
- Reading long-form texts is still difficult online
- Plethora of formats
- DRM
 - Download restrictions
 - Print restrictions
 - Less of a concern with Google Books
 - Specific provisions allow printing 20% of book with one command, entire book with multiple commands

Print is still seen as important

- Many patrons prefer print, depending on the situation
- 35% in recent RRU survey

Real-world perceptions

Figure 22: Percent of faculty responding “very important” to the question “For each item that you use, please indicate how important that item is to your research or your teaching.”



Concerns with Google Books

- Google and Book Rights Registry will jointly set the price based on 1) realization of revenue at market rates for each Book and license and 2) the realization of broad access to the Books by the public
- According to publishers, the 'big money' will come from ISD subscriptions

Institutional subscriptions

- The Registry may seek to emulate journal strategy for institutional subscriptions
- Price will be determined based on price of similar products
- In the absence of something similar, will the Registry or arbitrators mistakenly treat online journals as comparable products?

Concerns with Google Books

- Privacy
- Censorship
- Fidelity of scans
 - 'Metadata train wreck'
- Quality of metadata
 - BISAC vs. LC

Challenges for publishers

- Ebooks accounted for 1.3% of all books sales in 2009
- Lack of resources at smaller presses
 - 1/3 still not offering ebooks
 - Of those who are, only a very few have full title list available

New options for publishers

- Books at JSTOR
- University Press Scholarship Online (OUP)
- Project MUSE Editions
- University Press E-Book Consortium

Conclusion

- Google Books years away from Canada
- Between 20%-40% availability now
- Majority would cost 1.5-2.5X as much as print

- “Let us welcome the journey and be open to many destinations”

Thanks!

- Corey Davis
- corey.4davis@royalroads.ca