It has become clear that the rapid growth of scholarly publications available in electronic formats has allowed libraries to better meet the needs of patrons. In many cases, electronic content is received faster than its print counterpart and libraries are able to provide their users in remote locations with access to this information. In addition, many journals are now being published electronically only, which significantly enlarges the resource base. While these developments have brought a number of widely recognized benefits to the scholarly communication process, researchers should be aware of the challenges related to the dynamic nature of access to the resources. This article will address some of the issues of permanent archiving and ownership of electronic journals.

Libraries are at the mercy of vendors and publishers for a variety of reasons. Libraries normally purchase subscriptions to electronic resources either directly from publishers, who license access to all or part of their catalogue of serials, or from aggregators, who have negotiated full-text rights with publishers, and then disseminate that content to subscribers. Vendors and publishers have a vested interest in encouraging consortial purchases, with attractive prices, because only a select group of libraries could otherwise afford the products. Consortial purchases of journal databases have given libraries greater purchasing power, and many have acquired access to numerous databases previously unavailable through one-on-one licensing agreements. However, while these advantages are enormous, libraries often surrender choice, and will have to consider long-term costs, especially if print subscriptions are cancelled to pay for these resources.

Change in electronic content
Aggregators routinely lose and gain rights to full-text journals and some companies may merge or go out of business. Subscribers welcome new content, but the loss of journal titles is a serious problem, especially if a library has cancelled the print subscription to journals offered in full-text databases. Libraries may never be able to acquire the missing issues in print or have room in the budget to subscribe to additional databases offering the titles in question.

Harvard Business Review
A recent case in point is the Library’s loss of access to the Harvard Business Review. Formerly available in full-text from Proquest’s ABI/Inform, Harvard Business Review’s electronic content had become exclusively available via EBSCO, another aggregator. In order to gain full-text access to this title, Ryerson Library would have had to subscribe to EBSCO’s Business Source Premier. The problem of exclusive titles is worrisome for libraries. It is feared that if an aggregator negotiates exclusive rights to titles, at higher than average fees, a bidding war may ensue among aggregators, and more content could vanish from databases, forcing libraries to subscribe to more and more databases to maintain access to core resources. Fortunately, Ryerson did not cancel its print subscription to this journal. Decisions about hard-copy retention (cost and space criteria) are complex indeed.

Embargo
One other major problem is that most of the major aggregators of full-text journals are forced to embargo recent content — from a few days to one year or more — because they are concerned about losing print subscriptions to their journals. Embargoes have an impact on document delivery and interlibrary loans departments, and, perhaps, even on user perceptions of the library. What’s worse is that embargoes can conceivably be applied to any title at any time in the future. In dynamic fields such as molecular biology and chemistry,
e-journals continued

where researchers require access to the most recent literature, this is a serious problem.

Rolling back-files
Similarly, access to some serials is limited by a rolling back-file. This means that access is granted to, for example, the most recent five years’ articles, with older content dropping off as new content is added. In dynamic areas such as consumer health, such a practice may be appropriate, but in other areas this practice impedes research.

Guaranteed archival rights
Early agreements on electronic subscriptions often contained no provision for continuation of the purchased content. In most cases, content vanished when access was severed (with print subscriptions, we retained those issues on the shelves). One of the positive outcomes for all partners in consortia is the model for guaranteed archival rights to the content that had been licensed or purchased. The Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP), an initiative of 64 Canadian universities including Ryerson, has made advances in this area. A key component of the CNSLP negotiated agreements required the content of the 700 journals we acquired in the project to continue to be available to us, regardless of whether the agreement is carried forward. Ryerson Library’s Web site at www.ryerson.ca/library/info/databases/cnslp_dbs.html lists the components of the CNSLP and provides links to journal lists for each of them.

Research institutions and libraries worldwide have developed bold initiatives such as the CNSLP, SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), JSTOR and other partnerships to anticipate and address emerging issues of scholarly communication and mitigate the power of commercial vendors to control the information market. As one Director of Libraries advises, we should consider the lessons learned and the strengths gained through partnerships and "find ways to improve these business relationships with publishers and vendors who are most committed to quality service and the academic enterprise." 2

1 Harvard Business Review has subsequently become available in certain products not purchased by Ryerson.

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<th>Examples of embargoed* e-journals</th>
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<td><strong>Journal Title</strong></td>
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<td>Media Culture and Society</td>
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<td>Journal of International Business Studies</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; Society</td>
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<td>Clinical Nursing Research</td>
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<td>Journal of Family Nursing</td>
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<td>Journal of Environmental Sciences</td>
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<td>Archives of Physiology &amp; Biochemistry</td>
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<th>Some e-journal archiving initiatives</th>
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<td><strong>Ontario Council of University Libraries</strong></td>
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Science’s Next Wave

Science’s Next Wave is a weekly online publication that covers scientific training, career development, and the job market. The Ryerson Library has recently acquired access to this website/portal. Published by Science magazine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science’s Next Wave seeks to prepare graduate students, postdocs, junior faculty and other early career scientists to be more competitive in today’s employment market. Next Wave Canada is available as a subset of this portal. Free access to Science’s Next Wave is generously sponsored for all Canadian universities by Merck Frosst and can be accessed at

http://www.nextwave.org
Ryerson librarians at the front line — OLA Super Conference, February 2002

Byron librarians played an active role in the recent Ontario Library Association Super Conference in Toronto, reflecting the professional commitment and high calibre of the team at Byron. The event is the largest library conference in Canada and attracts over 3,500 delegates from libraries across the country.

Don Kinder served as program planner for the 22 sessions offered by the Ontario College and University Library Association. He will co-ordinate the Super Conference in 2003/04.

Brian Cameron, Co-Manager Access Services, convened the session, "Critical Thinking and Library Instruction.

Sue Giles, Data Librarian, convened, "CANSIM II: A New Database for the 21st Century."

Diane Granfield, Head of Reference Services, spoke at the session, "Virtual Reference Desks — Going Digital," which focused on Byron's experience with LSSI and its 'Ask a Librarian' Virtual Reference Service.

Trina Grover, Head Cataloguer, spoke at the session "Managing Web Resources in the OPAC." Trina also convened the session, "Service Quality in Assessment in Research Libraries: The Guelph/Waterloo ARL LibQUAL+ Project."

Cathy Matthews, Chief Librarian, spoke on "Pre-Grant, Grant, Post-Grant: funding issues for your research proposal" at the session, "Preparing for Research: Publications, Presentations and Leaves."

Daniel Phelan, Head of Technical Services, convened the session, "NetLibrary, an e-book product.


Ryerson to house George Brown ECE collection

The Library has agreed to accept the donation of the George Brown College Nightringale campus library collection in the area of Early Childhood Education. George Brown College will be sharing the new SuperBuild space on campus (The Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre for Studies in Community Health), and while the students will be enrolled as George Brown students and will be taught the George Brown College program by GBC faculty, they will reside on our campus and use our Library. A collaborative agreement on support and services is currently being negotiated. We expect to hire summer staff to assist with the integration of almost 1000 volumes by September 2002.

Library pursues its vision of an integrated Information and Learning Commons

As the elements of our case are scalable and the funding environment yet unpredictable, we may pursue the various elements of our Content, Access, Space and Expertise (CASE) in a more fluid manner than originally envisioned. Nevertheless we are still committed to an integrated learning commons that brings content to users, using the expertise of our community working together. Costs of various elements run between $1 million to $6.5 million.

Extensive Canadian geospatial data available

The Byren Library has signed a data licensing agreement with DMTI Spatial Inc., a leading provider of state-of-the-art geospatial products and services. GIS is a computer-based technology used for accessing and managing geospatial data, analyzing it, and producing findings in the form of maps or reports. Many private and public enterprises employ these innovative methods to explain events, predict outcomes, plan strategies and make informed decisions. If you have used a recent map that sited a new retail outlet, targeted a new customer base, or provided driving directions on the Web, you've probably benefited from GIS data. For example, DMTI GIS software powers the Canadian maps on MapQuest under the trademark name CanMap.

Under the terms of the licensing agreement Byren University now has access to the geospatial data and geocoding software DMTI creates and distributes and Byren Library is responsible for distributing these data to the Ryerson academic community. Data files are to be used for teaching and non-commercial, academic research. Commercial use of the files requires an appropriate license from DMTI Spatial Inc. For more information contact Sue Giles at 416-979-5000 ext 6890 or sgiles@ryerson.ca.

CISTI SOURCE: THE ULTIMATE RESEARCH TOOL

For current awareness, document delivery, library services support

From anywhere and at any time, faculty will now have full access to the new CISTI Source, a COMBINED library service that is INTEGRAL to scientific research.

- Current awareness service to keep you up to date
- Instant access to full-text articles
- Immediate access to scientific information worldwide
- Speedy delivery of journal articles when you need them
- Interlibrary loan to supplement other information needs
- Combined service FREE to faculty participants

Pick up an application form from the Interlibrary Loan desk or download the form from www.ryerson.ca/library/info/cisti.html.

Return the completed form to Interlibrary Loan, 2nd floor, Byren Library.

For more on this pilot project, visit our CISTI Source Web page, www.ryerson.ca/library/info/cisti.html or the Interlibrary Loan desk, and send suggestions/comments to Ophebia Cheung, Head of Audio Visual/Interlibrary Loan, ochueung@ryerson.ca, tel: 416-979-5097.
Bookbinding: We bind an average of 2900-4000 books a year. The number peaked in 1999-2000 and has now stabilized at about 3000. However, the rising cost (about 6-10% a year) means we pay more for fewer books bound.

Book repair: Library staff repair more than 200 volumes a month.

Additions to RLISH: (Ryerson International Labour and Occupational Safety and Health Index). We add more than 6,000 new articles annually to this Canadian and international journals' database that is produced at the Ryerson Library.

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Speaking of the Library

MAY RYERSON FACULTY CONFERENCE, Ryerson University, May 15/16, 2002

Presentations by Library staff

“What did my Students Find this Great Research Material?”
Zita Murphy, Susan Patrick

“Information Literacy — Helping Students Navigate the Complex World of Information,” Daniel Phelan

“MAP IT!!!: Reveal the Spatial Relationships between Your Variables as never before.”
Suzette Giles, with Susan Laskin and Stephen Swales of Applied Geography

“DID YOU KNOW? Statistics Canada Publications on CD-ROM.”
Suzette Giles (poster session)

“The Virtual Reference Desk — Ask a Librarian – LIVE!”
Diane Granfield, Bob Jackson, Don Kinder, Susan Patrick (poster session)

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

“Virtual Reference Collaborations and Consortium Planning for Ontario University Libraries,” OCUL directors meeting, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, April 8, 2002, Diane Granfield, Head, Reference Services


Did you know?

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www.library.ryerson.ca

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