Maximizing Open Access to Ebooks

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1. Your name
2. Institution
3. What’s your favorite open access book project?
Why we’re here

Three emerging threads in talking to libraries:

1. Libraries want to highlight their local content
2. Libraries don’t want to spend money on books in the public domain
3. The broader library community needs to aggregate our various efforts around making open access ebooks available

How can we best accomplish #3 to better serve libraries through #1 and #2?
DPLA + Ebooks: Bookshelf & Exchange

- The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Biology
- Little Brother by Cory Doctorow
- Vanished Arizona: Recollections of My Army Life by Martha Smutkin

حَب أن أقرأ!
Hanadi Traifeh
Wiehan de Jager
The Library of Congress invites people of all ages to discover the fascinating people, places, and events that await you whenever you read.

**THE FOX & THE GRAPES**

A fox was very fond of a beautiful bunch of ripe grapes hanging from a vine near a tree. The grapes seemed to him the sweetest ever. He tried to reach them, but could not.

"Why are you not eating them?" asked a passing crow.

"They are too high for me to reach," replied the fox.

"Then why can’t you let me try them?" asked the crow.

"They are too sour for me," replied the fox. And without giving an answer to the crow, the fox began to eat the grapes. At the first bite, the fox said, "Ah! They are a lot sweeter than they seemed to be before."

"How is that?" asked the crow. "Do you think any more of these grapes are tolerable?"

"If you let me have one more," said the fox, "I will tell you."

The crow flew up to the tree, and the fox, jumping on the crow, seized him by the beak, and carried him off.

"Oh! What a fine bunch of grapes you have brought me," cried the fox.

"They are not mine," said the crow. "I only brought them to get some water from the stream below."

"Well," said the fox, "I shall keep your water as well as the grapes."

**AESOP’S FABLES**

This children’s classic has been adapted & updated for website, touch-screen tablets & mobile phones.

Find out more →
Part II: Small Groups
Small Group Discussion Topics

1. Portability: Books can be downloaded onto personal devices for use outside of the library’s website

2. Discoverability: Books are highly organized and findable, whether on the Library’s web site or on the open web

3. Accessibility: Books are delivered in a format that meets existing industry standards for making e-book content accessible to persons with disabilities

“We believe... Therefore...”
Part III: Prioritization

- Evaluate the statements created by each group
- Using your dots, vote for the statement in each group you think should be a priority
E-content values

Maximizing Access to Open e-Content
DPLAfest 2017

Statements that received the most votes are highlighted in yellow.
Portability

We believe e-content should work well in the widest and broadest range of environmental and technical conditions.

Therefore, e-content should be:

1. Backwards compatible
2. Standards-based
3. Available offline
4. **Awesome for the user (content is the priority)**
5. Efficient and optimized for performing and packaging
6. Transparent about its copyright
Portability

We believe e-content should preserve the ability to navigate across devices.

Therefore, e-content developers should:

1. Promote standards
2. Explore where e-content should be developed
Accessibility

We believe...

- Accessible ebooks add value for everyone
- It is part of the IFLA mission to make ebooks accessible
- New ebooks should be born accessible
- It’s never been easier or cheaper to make an accessible ebook
- Content creators should adhere to the standards developed by W3C
- That just because a book has been digitized it is accessible
- Failing forward stimulates innovation
- There is tension between mass digitization, preservation, and user experience
Accessibility

Therefore...

- We ask everyone to use EPUB 3.0 as the foundational format
- We should invite and involve people with blindness and other disabilities into our discussion
- We should include accessibility as a core characteristic of open ebook initiatives
Discoverability

We believe in user-centered design.

Therefore, e-content should be displayed

- From a reader’s perspective
- With browse functionality
- With intuitive searching
Discoverability

We believe records are where users are searching.

Therefore, e-content providers should

- Create fully shareable records
- Utilize cutting edge formats with crosswalks
- Have high-quality MARC records