ILL for e-books
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ILL for e-books – experiences since four years – learning to walk

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Content

- General remarks about ILL
- The walking boots: concept and the system
- First steps: experiences of the last four years trial period with e-books in ILL
- ILL and e-books – content and license agreements
- Next steps and the prospects
• virtual national library together with other libraries
• 10,7 million volumes
• 138,000 manuscripts
• 57,000 current periodicals in electronic or printed form
• Most important lending library in ILL within Germany
• Most important lending library in OCLC worldshare ILL outside the US
The basic principle of ILL: sharing limited resources / use instead of possession – is that old fashioned?
Aspects of the “problem“ - theses

I. **ILL is the consequence of various shortages**
   - No single patron can buy and own everything he needs for scientific work: libraries are indispensable information providers (bundling resources)
   - No single library can provide all needed information
   - **ILL as “book sharing” or “library resource sharing”**
Aspects of the “problem“ - theses

II. ILL can not be replaced by other solutions: pay-per-use, PDA, direct document delivery…

Shortcomings of the alternatives:

- No completeness, no solution throughout
- Only few common standards
- Not part of the established services
- No sustainability – the services may vanish every moment
ILL: Old Fashioned or Up To Date?

- Aspects of the “problem“ - theses

III. E-media do not match the principles of ILL
- License and right to access instead of possession of the book or journal
  ⇒ No application of legal restrictions to the copyright
  ⇒ further license agreements are necessary
- Handling of data instead of paper (books or journals)
  ⇒ modification of the technical basis
ILL: Old Fashioned or Up To Date?

- Aspects of the “problem“ - theses

IV. conclusions

- *ILL can be up to date if it is enhanced*

  ⇒ new ILL license agreements are necessary
  ⇒ modification of the technical basis for e-media
    - handling of data instead of paper (eg scanning)
    - handling of license information
setting up the system – the walking boots

The concept, the system and improvements
Initial situation:

- Increasing number of unfulfilled ILL requests concerning e-books
- E-only-policy of the German Research Foundation (DFG): preference of the digital version
- Need for a concept of supra-regional accessibility of e-media for financing by the DFG
- No license agreements concerning ILL for e-books
- No technical solution and no project funding from the DFG
- Existing technical solution for e-journals
The only solution before the start of the project: library journey

CC BY Arachne
Setting up the system - the walking boots

The technical concept:

- ILL of e-books should be similar to traditional ILL of printed books
  - Explicit and single order per book and user – no direct access to the digital content
  - Manual processing of the orders in the lending library
  - Limited access (number of downloads) per book and per year
  - Limited number of authorized users (users permitted for ILL in Germany – no free registration)
  - Controlled access: authentication for ordering and same authentication for document access and download
  - Limited period of document access (two weeks)
Setting up the system - the walking boots

Modules of the technical infrastructure:

- Order management system for ILL (central ILL server – ZFL)
- License management system (license information for each book and lending library, maximum access counter etc.)
- Provision server for the delivery of the document to the patron
- Every component works with APIs and can be accessed from third party systems (e.g. local library catalogues etc)
Order and delivery process
First steps: experiences of the last four years trial period with e-books in ILL
First steps: experiences

Trial period with productive ILL within the Bavarian Library Network (BVB)

- Technical infrastructure is up and running
- The German library networks agreed upon using the system as a common national system
- License agreements with four publishers: Sagner, DeGruyter, Steiner eLibrary, Duncker & Humboldt, Wiley => aprox. 18,000 e-book-title
- 11 Partaking lending libraries
First steps: experiences

Trialperiod with productiv ILL within the Bavarian Library Network (BVB)

- 524 deliveries 1.6.2015 – 31.5.2016 (first year)
- Total number 2953 (06/08/2019)
- highest rate 2016 with 783 deliveries
First steps: experiences

□ Accepted by the user without problems
□ Rare multiple orders for the same title

□ 2159 deliveries from 1710 different titles
□ The top titles:
  - „Was die Satire darf“ ("What is allowed for satire") - next to Prague in university library Greifswald (600 km) 11 deliveries
  - „Praxis-Handbuch Erbrechtsberatung“ ("Manual of practice to consulting of inheritance law") 10 deliveries
First steps: experiences

- Rare multiple orders for the same title

![Graph showing multiple deliveries and their percentages]
First steps: experiences

- ILL with delivery to the patron and not to the borrowing library
- Sometimes the customer doesn’t expect an ebook – it works anyway
- “Annual rate of orders” (orders per total amount of selectable titles per year) is identical for e-books and printed books: 0.031

⇒ The systems serves exactly the needs of ILL!!
ILL and E-Books

Things to be done by the libraries:

- Tasks of the lending libraries:
  - negotiating license agreements
  - input of license data
  - processing of the orders
- Tasks of the borrowing libraries:
  - Enable ordering in the local or regional ILL portal
Licenses and license agreements

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Aspects of licenses for e-books

- **Appendix** to existing or new license contracts for e-book packages
- Delivery of e-books within ILL not appropriate for basic literature (e.g., textbooks for undergraduate collections)
- No risks for the economic interests of the publisher by:
  - flexible **limitation of access**
  - limited number of authorized user
  - controlled access
Aspects of licenses for e-books

- Possibility of consortia and licence communities with a master license agreement: administration of consortia with common conditions and common access limitations (the limited number of downloads per ebook per year counts for all members of the consortia together)

⇒ allows more control of total access to documents for publishers
Aspects of licenses for e-books

- transparency by statistical information about access to e-books by a lending library for publishers

⇒ further transparency of the needs of libraries concerning e-books for publishers

⇒ ILL of e-books as an alternative to the illegal exchange of documents by scientists and students
Is ILL for e-books a oversized system?
ILL and e-books – the next steps

Or potential for a broad effect?!
Thank you for your attention!

questions?

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