

E-Book Principles and Considerations

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Current State Scenario

NSCU Policy:

(Borrowed from NCSU)

- Portability between devices, with publishers and aggregator platforms using non-proprietary formats for their ebooks.
 - Consistency of content across the print and electronic format and the incorporation of corresponding supplementary material sometimes available in the print version (i.e CDs, web access).
 - Working jointly with publishers and aggregator platform vendors to develop standards for printing, copy/paste, and saving of ebook content.
 - Quality Full-level MARC bibliographic records that meet current national cataloging standards and practice.
 - The Interlibrary Loan process or comparable way to lend and borrow ebooks between libraries.
 - Perpetual access to purchased and/or subscribed content.
 - ADA compliance.
 - [COUNTER](#) compliant usage statistics.
 - Licensing terms which do not limit fair use and first sale doctrines under US copyright law. Adopting [SERU](#) as a standard for ebooks would ensure this.
 - Simultaneous format availability of frontlist titles.
 - Alerts that new books have been added to existing collections.
 - Pricing models that are reasonable, flexible and reflect the broad needs of the library market. Restricting ebook access to subscription-only, bundled databases of "all or nothing" content is in direct conflict with reasonable, flexible pricing models.
 - The ability to migrate purchased and/or subscribed content between platforms in the event of the end of life of a platform.
 - The ability to coordinate discovery with third party services such as SFX.
 - The ability to incorporate ebook search, discovery, access and purchase into existing workflows.
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- **What digital rights management software**, if any being used, i.e., limitations on downloading, copying, pasting, etc. (e.g., several require installation of free Adobe Digital Editions to moderate use, or access through a third-party such as iLibrary)? DRM often limits the length of the checkout period.

- What is the **downloadable formats for titles?** (e.g., epub, etc.)—most ebooks are (still) only available in PDF, but there seems to be more of a move to an XML basis
- **Can titles be accessed and downloaded on an iPad?** What about a **Kindle?**
- Can titles be read across different platforms or is there a **proprietary platform?** **What are the pros/cons of this platform?**
- What does the **platform allow users to do with the content?**
- **Almost all vendors allow for chapter downloads, but not all allow downloads for entire books.**
- Is there an ability to **purchase through third party vendors**, such as YBP (e.g., libraries can purchase Springer packages through YBP)?
- Are these static or **dynamic collections?** Is there a fee for adding new content as it appears? Can we purchase specific titles, specific months, or are these set collections with no options?
- Are there implications for **duplication of already existing print materials** in our collections? What about existing ecollections? Have we already purchased individual titles via EBL or EBrary (through GOBI)? **Can we receive discounts for already purchased print titles?**
- **There will definitely be implications with DDA; omitting/excluding titles from packages.** Can we work with YBP on this issue?
- Can we obtain/manage **robust collection use stats from these vendors** (at the title level)?
- What is the **reserves policy** for e-book content?
- Can the e-book(s) be **loaned to other libraries?** **Are there restrictions on how much content?**