E-books and its Future in Academic Libraries

An Annotated Bibliography

Sheila Peacock

INFO 522: Information Access & Resources

Linda Marion, Instructor

08.29.2010
E-books and its Future in Academic Libraries: An Annotated Bibliography

Introduction & Scope

The bibliography reflects upon the use of electronic books (e-books) in academic libraries and its future in academic libraries. As electronic publishing matures, academic libraries are beginning to supplement their print materials with electronic publications. Several articles discuss the usability of e-books, NetLibrary, and current research on the impact e-books in the academic environment. One study examines the usability of e-books from a user’s perspective in research and academic environment. The articles contained in this bibliography were published from 2001 to 2010. As the use of e-books continues to mature, academic libraries are investigating the importance of e-books to collection development.

Description of User Group

Since there is an increased demand for information, academic libraries are exploring the need for electronic books (e-books) to be added to their collections. Also, the growth of distance education courses means that academic libraries need to provide resources for a growing population of users who will never set foot in the physical library building (Myers, 20004, p. 4). Clyde (2005) examines various types of e-books and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of having electronic books over printed books.

Literature Review

The articles, based on findings and research, explore the current trends, investigate the e-book market, and outline issues for recommendations for making e-books a viable part of academic libraries. The use of e-books in academic libraries
begins by defining what e-books are and current developments in the e-book industry. The origination of the e-book appeared on the World Wide Web in 1990. The term eBooks is also known as e-books, electronic books, and digital books (Buczynski, 2010). Lam, Lam, Lam, & McNaught (2009) explained that e-books are text in digital form, digital reading material, or a book in computer form. An e-book is simply an electronic text that serves the same purpose as a conventional printed book and may also share some of the look and feel of a printed book (Anuradha & Usha, 2006). The use of e-books is a good resource in academic libraries. Colleges in the academic community find it necessary to add e-books to their collections. In 2009, the National Center for Education Statistics revealed that academic libraries held approximately 102.5 million e-books and about 3.6 million electronic reference sources and aggregation services at the end of fiscal year 2008 (Phan, Hardesty, Sheckells, & Davis, 2009).

The use of e-books can play a viable role in academic library collections. Buczynski (2010) revealed that while the first waves of e-book offerings in libraries, patrons over time have begun to expect that factual information, research course readings, and increasingly leisure reading materials be available online. Universities and colleges are now expanding the scope of their course reserve services to include electronic books. Myers (2004) discussed how academic libraries decide which titles to include in their e-book collections based on review of items in their circulating collection with long-term, high circulation and browse counts. Next, they review books that are frequently placed on course reserve. Lastly, libraries review titles that frequently have a status of “missing” or “lost”.
A leading supplier of e-books that tailor its e-books to infrastructure the needs of librarians in the academic environment is NetLibrary. Doan (2001) provides extensive information on the netlibrary’s contribution and its goal to provide e-books for the academic community. In 2000, netlibrary had signed agreements with more than 350 publishers of academic, reference, and professional book writers (Doan, 2001). This company was one of the earlier adopters of full-text e-books to reach academic libraries.

Looking at current developments in the e-book industry, Silberer & Bass (2005) describes one source of current information on the e-books market is published by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF). The IDPF estimated that e-book revenues in 2005 were approximately $11.8 million among trade and educational publishers, accounting for 5,242 e-book titles. Also, Dowdy, Parente, and Vesper (2001) revealed that North Carolina State University initiated an e-book project involving Rocket e-book and Soft Book. Grudzien & Casey (2008) examined e-book usage patterns and reported that the growth of the number of e-books sold electronically has increased. According to Grudzien & Casey (2008), the wholesale e-book sales have risen from under $2 million per quarter in 2002 to nearly $8 million per quarter in 2002. Bronshteyn (2007) documented accounts that despite library staff complaints there is an increased demand for e-books. These research findings prove that libraries are adding this resource to their collections.

The role of e-books in academic libraries is not clearly defined. There are still concerns about this relatively new format and many rights and business models issues
between authors, publishers, and distributors have not been resolved (Buczynski, 2010). In 2004, a future concern was providing a digital copy of every book and full text searching of books and how it would affect the future of libraries (Myers, 2004). There are still further questions and concerns that must be explored in providing e-books to the academic community. For Safely (2006), it is important to explore the increased demand for information and the demand of electronic books in an academic library. The use of e-books will not cause printed books to cease, but from the information found in this report they will always coexist.

**Conclusion and Personal Statement**

The information and research findings discussed in this paper provide general information of the future of e-books to an academic community. I examined various database such as ERIC, Dialog, Library Literature & information Science, Library & Information Science Abstracts, and Library Information Science & Technology Abstract.

The search process was a long and tedious process. My interest in this topic was as result of discussions of on e-books in the information world. There has been an increase in distance education and e-books are becoming an informational resource in academic libraries. My goal was to gather information that will provide a basic overview of e-books and its contribution to the future of academic libraries. The search terms that returned the best results was “ebooks and libraries” and “ebooks and academic libraries”. Other search terms used were electronic books, electronic publishing, and digital books.

The ERIC database was an easy resource to search for full-text, peer-reviewed articles through Drexel's Hagerty Library. The information science databases used to
access information on e-books and academic libraries provided information on current trends on this topic. Also, dialog was a useful resource to access several articles that relate to ebooks and academic libraries.

The various methods of searching for this assignment included Boolean operators, truncation, controlled vocabulary, and descriptors. The method of footnote chasing was not used in this search process. However, I did explore one article using footnote chasing. It did not meet my information need.

The most challenging part of the search process and research assignment was acquiring an appropriate number of peer-reviewed journal articles for the annotated bibliography. Also, the annotation section was challenging, because I was unfamiliar with writing this section. I had to adhere to specific requirements that vary among professors.

Finally, in writing the literature review, I learned that it should be organized around ideas. The literature review should not simply list your sources, but it is report about what is known about one’s topic based on published scholarly literature. Basically, one should highlight most important points in each source.

**Abstract:** E-books are not as popular as other types of e-publication, such as e-journals and e-newspapers. The possible reasons for this could be because the technology for creating/accessing e-books is not yet matured, users' perspectives about e-books need to be changed and the awareness of e-books needs to raised. The purpose of this study is to investigate the use and usability of e-books from users' perspectives in an academic and research environment. This study involved an email questionnaire to survey researchers in the academic and research environment of the Indian Institute of Science regarding their use of e-books.

**Annotation:** The case study examines and investigates the usability of e-books from users' perspectives in an academic and research environment. The researchers' study provides a snap shot of e-book usability when compared to other e-formats such as e-journals and e-newspapers. At the time this study was conducted, there had been no previous study reported which has investigated the user's perspectives of e-books in academic and research environment using a questionnaire method.

**Search Strategy:** I selected Social SciSearch in dialog because to find a variety of articles on e-books and as they relate to information science. This search was conducted using.

**Database:** SocialSciSearch [Dialog File 7]

**Method of Searching:** Keyword searching, Boolean operator, and Truncation.

**Search String:**

S ebooks and academic librar?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34</th>
<th>EBOOKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>281</td>
<td>ACADEMIC LIBRAR?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EBOOKS AND ACADEMIC LIBRAR?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T s2/3/1

**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to encourage reference librarians to utilize eBooks to their advantage at the reference desk, for point of need and collection development purposes. An overview of e-book utility at the reference desk and strategies for dealing with their shortcomings are provided. The collection development and collection management of eBooks are also discussed. A survey of first-year college students provides a current projection of usage.

**Annotation:** The author examines netlibrary e-books utility at the reference desk and discusses collection development of e-books. The research findings reveal that e-books are well-utilized by patrons in academic libraries. The value of this research takes in account for utilization, promotion, and collection development of e-books.

**Search Strategy:** I performed a basic search in the Library Literature and Information Science database to acquire various articles on eBooks and libraries.

**Database:** Library Literature & Information Science [Dialog File 438]

**Method of Searching:** Keyword searching and Boolean operator

**Search String:**

S ebooks and libraries

102 EBOOKS
87737 LIBRARIES
26 EBOOKS AND LIBRARIES

T S1/3/1-26


**Abstract:** When discussing e-books, people generally fall into two camps; they either don’t know what e-books are or know what they are but cannot find them at their local library. Libraries are beginning to successfully address the gap between patron awareness of electronic books in general and a library’s holdings and circulation options. E-books are a relatively new format, and many rights and business model issues between authors, publishers, and distributors remain unresolved. E-book readers are a large degree receives more media attention than eBooks themselves.

**Annotation:** The article discusses how patrons are looking to libraries to fulfill their information needs. The author explains how libraries are beginning to successfully
address the gap between patron awareness of electronic books in general and a library’s holdings and circulation options. The article is unique in that it addresses the issues faced by libraries that are beginning to successfully market their e-book collections.

Search Strategy: I acquired this article by conducting an advance search in Library and Information Science Abstracts. The search terms eBooks and I selected “and” choosing the option search anywhere.

Database: Library & Information Science Abstracts [Drexel's Hagerty Library]

Method of Searching: Anywhere search and selecting to use “and” instead of “or”.

Search String: Search term was “ebooks”

Search results: 147 journals and 25 Peer-reviewed journals


Abstract: Terje Hillesund points out that "information technology and especially the Internet have profoundly changed the ways of publishing." Recently, the book publishing industry has started to catch up, making digitized texts—including multimedia texts—available for sale through online bookstores, and in some cases, available for free downloading. Some of the titles will be attractive to school libraries. Hillesund himself says that "e-book technology has a long way to go before it can equal the readability and richness of traditional books" (Hillesund, 2001). "Nevertheless," he continues, "e-books have characteristics that in some ways supersede those of traditional books, being more flexible and accessible than paper books will ever be. E-books are a new, self-contained medium that will have an enormous impact in time on society." In light of this statement, the author of this paper discusses this "infoTech" development and its implications for school libraries.

Annotation: The author gives an overview of electronic books. The discussion reflects upon ideas previously studied by Terje Hillesund (2001). The research is valuable in that it describes moving from printed books to electronic books.

Search Strategy: The initial search was to browse the thesaurus for electronic books. I found the term "electronic publishing" that is another term used to describe. Next, I performed a basic search in Eric using “electronic books”.

Database: ERIC [Drexel's Hagerty Library]

Method of Searching: Keyword searching and browse

Search String: Search term “electronic books”
Search results: 15 results, article above 12 of 15 results


**Abstract:** NetLibrary Inc. is a leading supplier of eBooks and as such, is a pioneer in the new field of using the World Wide Web as a distribution medium for books in electronic format. Started in 1998 with eight employees, netLibrary has grown into an effective organization competing in the area of electronic publishing and providing academic libraries with a new paradigm for “circulating” eBooks to their users.

**Annotation:** The article provides information on the netlibrary which is the leading supplier of e-books to the academic community. NetLibrary continues to focus on providing e-books to the academic community. The author is the vice president of sales for netlibrary and provides insight into the e-book industry.

**Search Strategy:** I acquired this article by searching the ERIC database using the terms “ebooks and academic libraries” and selecting the option to perform a title search.

**Database:** ERIC [Drexel’s Hagerty Library]

**Method of Searching:** Title search and Boolean operator.

**Search String:** Search terms “ebooks and academic libraries”

Search results: 11 results, article above 9 of 11 results


**Abstract:** This paper on electronic books (e-books) in the academic library begins by defining the e-book and presenting general information on developments in the e-book industry, including collections of e-books that are accessed through the Internet and electronic editions of print books that can be downloaded to a proprietary reading device. A list of e-book reading devices, along with links to their World Wide Web sites, is included. NetLibrary, an online e-book collection that is enjoying popularity in all types of libraries, is described. The problems and challenges that the e-book presents to a university library are addressed, including circulation, readability, bibliographic control, and administrative problems.

**Annotation:** The author explores the definition of e-books and provides information on the new developments of e-books. This research is unique in that it examines the challenges of acquiring e-books in university libraries.
**Search Strategy:** I accessed the ERIC database in Dialog to obtain articles that provide information on e-book usage in an academic setting. My first search within this database I used another term as an attempt to access more information on this topic. The search terms used was digital books and academic library?. The second search attempt returned better results.

**Database:** ERIC [Dialog File 1]

**Method of Searching:** Keyword searching, Boolean operator, and Truncation.

**Search String:**

S digital books and academic library?

*S1*

0 DIGITAL BOOKS
7246 ACADEMIC LIBRAR?
0 DIGITAL BOOKS AND ACADEMIC LIBRAR?

S ebooks and academic library?

*S2*

27 EBooks
7246 ACADEMIC LIBRAR?
7 EBOOKS AND ACADEMIC LIBRAR?


**Abstract:** The number of electronic books (e-books) that are available is increasing rapidly. Libraries are acquiring them individually, in large groups, and as part of collections. Off-campus librarians perceive them to be the best solution to the problems and expenses related to loaning and shipping print books to off-campus students. This study looks at the usage of e-books by off-campus students at Central Michigan University (CMU) to see if usage patterns can assist librarians with e-book collection development to support off-campus programs.

**Annotation:** The article provides information on what e-books are and how these items influence off-campus users. The researchers attempt to uncover how to build strong e-book collections in libraries that support off-campus users. The researchers provide value to their work by examining several recent studies of the usage of e-books in academic institutions.
Search Strategy: I selected Library Information Science & Technology Abstracts to acquire information on e-books as it relates to information science. I performed an advance search using a Boolean operator and limited search by selecting academic journals.

Database: Library Information Science & Technology Abstract [Drexel’s Hagerty Library]

Method of Searching: Keyword searching and Boolean operator.

Search String: search terms “electronic books and academic libraries”.

Search results: 178 journal articles, article 5 of 178


Abstract: The number of academic eBooks in university libraries is increasing. Reading digital materials such as newspapers is valued in Hong Kong; however, students' perceptions of the value of reading academic eMaterials are not well known. In the study researchers investigated 12 students' use of academic eBooks on mobile readers in two ways. Six students had brief introduction to eBooks and they reported their first impressions of the technology. The other six students had a 12-week eBook reading period that was closely monitored by the research team. The experiences from the two groups of students generally affirmed that the technology has potential to enhance teaching and learning in a university setting. However, the experiences highlight a number of challenges that need to be addressed.

Annotation: The research examines student opinions concerning the usability and usefulness of e-books. Because of the originality of this research, the researchers received an Outstanding Paper Award at the ascilite Melbourne 2008 Conference.

Search Strategy: I completed an advance search in ERIC limited search to peer-reviewed articles. The search term used was “ebooks”.

Database: ERIC database [Drexel's Hagerty Library]

Method of Searching: Keyword searching

Search String: search terms “ebooks”.

Search results: 6 peer-reviewed journal articles.

**Abstract:** The article focuses on the publication of books in a digital format and ways in which academic libraries should decide which titles to include in their e-book collections. A digital copy of every book, and full-text searching of books might be the future of libraries, but it is unrealistic to expect that libraries will have the resources to meet such an extravagant expectation now. It is necessary to develop a list of titles that meet some criteria and use those titles as a measuring stick for potential e-book acquisitions. Reference materials are extremely useful in the digital format. Many of them are created, marketed, and licensed to libraries as separate entities with their own unique user interfaces. Items from the circulating collection with long-term, high circulation and browse counts should be among the first materials purchased for a digital collection. Books that are frequently placed on course reserve are especially valuable in digital formats, as these materials also receive heavy use. Titles that frequently come up "missing" or "lost" would also make good candidates for a digital collection.

**Annotation:** The author discusses the fact that e-books are still in their early development stages. The article presents statistical data one-book usage. The importance of this article focuses on making suggestions on how to develop e-book collections.

**Search Strategy:** I completed a basic search in ERIC limited search to peer-reviewed articles. The search term used was “ebooks”.

**Database:** Library Information Science & Technology (LISTA) database [Drexel’s Hagerty Library]

**Method of Searching:** Keyword searching and Boolean operator.

**Search String:** search terms “ebooks and academic libraries”.

Search results: 33 peer-reviewed journal articles; article above 6 of 33 results


**Abstract:** This report presents tabulations for the 2008 Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) conducted by the United States Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the Institute of Education Sciences. This First Look summarizes services, staff, collections, and expenditures of academic libraries in 2- and 4-year, degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
Annotation: The authors provide educational statistics and tabulations from the academic libraries survey (2008). The information provides high priority data needs for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Search Strategy: I completed a basic search in ERIC limited search to peer-reviewed articles. The search term used was “ebooks”.

Database: ERIC database [Drexel's Hagerty Library]

Method of Searching: author search

Search String: search terms “phan, tai”.

Search results:

225 articles; 1 of 225 article above


Abstract: Rather than create a collection solely to support distance learners, libraries should consider the needs of all customers when developing a digital library. The acceptance of digital libraries is dependent upon the conversion of resources to an electronic format that is easy to use and is fully searchable. While electronic journals are widely accepted by most academic library customers, the delivery of online books has had a very different acceptance rate. Rather than support the sequential reading of books, electronic books are commonly used to find information and can be particularly well-suited for reference purposes. This article will provide insight into the history of e-book models and evaluate the usage statistics of a large electronic book collection in an academic library.

Annotation: The author addresses the issue of developing a digital library that supports distance learners as well as other customers. The information provides a history of e-book models and examines usage statistics of large electronic book collections in an academic library. The information is unique it accounts for the increased demand for e-books in an academic library.

Search Strategy: I completed a quick search in Library Literature and Information Science Database. The search returned 10 peer-reviewed journals and 17 journals. I selected the tab for peer-reviewed articles.

Database: Library Literature and Information Science Database [Drexel's Hagerty Library]

Method of Searching: Keyword searching and Boolean operator.
**Search String:** search terms “e-books and academic library”.

Search results:

17 journal; 10 peer-reviewed; article of above 6 of 10


**Abstract:** This paper discusses a variety of options available to academic libraries considering the acquisition of eBooks. A detailed examination is undertaken with regard to the impact of eBooks on the ordering process, purchasing models, distribution options and overall utility. The paper also outlines some key issues and potential future directions for eBooks.

**Annotation:** The authors discuss the options that academic libraries can choose to meet their needs by considering e-books for their collections. The areas of discussion are address ordering, purchasing models, and distribution issues. The article provides a look at the future direction for e-books.

**Search Strategy:** I completed a basic search in Library Literature and Information Science Database. The search has been limited peer-reviewed articles.

**Search Strategy:** I performed a basic search in the Library Literature and Information Science database to acquire various articles on eBooks and libraries

**Database:** Library Literature & Information Science [Dialog File 438]

**Method of Searching:** Keyword searching and Boolean operator

**Search String:**

S Ebooks and libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBOOKS</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARIES</td>
<td>87737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBOOKS AND LIBRARIES</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T S1/3/1-26