



**STEPPING UP TO THE  
ELECTRONIC  
ARCHIVING  
CHALLENGE:  
OCLC'S ROLE**

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# OCLC.org

- Nonprofit, membership organization
- 36,000 libraries in 76 countries
- **Mission:** Furthering access to information  
Reducing library costs
- **Vision:** Be the leading global library cooperative, helping libraries serve people by providing economical access to knowledge through innovation and collaboration



# WorldCat

- Foundation of OCLC
- 44 million records
- 750 million location listings
- 2.2 million new records per year

# OCLC Electronic Collections Online

- Now integrated with FirstSearch
  - 85 databases
  - 16,000 libraries
- 3000 journals
- 55 publishers
- Journals match library needs
- Current data plus archive

# OCLC'S Archive Commitment

- OCLC stores content
- Ongoing access to volumes subscribed to--  
electronic bookshelf
- Maintenance of library subscription  
information
- All publishers in ECO agree to archive and  
ongoing access
- If ejournals are sold, backfile remains at  
OCLC
- Publishers obtain electronic rights

# Challenges for OCLC

- Data Migration
- Which format to archive
  - PDF, HTML, XML, ??
- Linking
  - CrossRef
  - Forward, backward linking
- Pricing
  - per-article, ECO

# Levels of Service

- Vault Service
- Bit Preservation
- Bit Rendering
  - Preserve intellectual content
  - Preserve look and feel

# Publisher Stance on Archiving

- Do it ourselves
- Let OCLC do it for us
- Not important enough to address now
- Not our business
- National libraries should do it
- Only current subscribers can access content-  
-no perpetual access if cancelled

# Library Survey Results:



- Currently subscribe to electronic journals 64%

# If use electronic journals, also maintain print for:

- All 12%
- Most 39%
- Some 44%
- Hardly any/none 4%



# Likelihood of replacing significant portion of paper prints with an electronic archive in the next 10 years:

- Very 35%
- Somewhat 44%
- Only Slightly 12%
- Not at all likely 6%
- Don't know 3%

# Level of difficulty in finding space for shelving paper journals:

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- No problem



42%

35%

16%

7%

# Which organization would do the best job of maintaining an electronic archive?

- OCLC 68%
- Library of Congress 13%
- Library Consortium 8%
- Publishers 1%

# Survey Conclusions

- Libraries are rapidly adapting e-journals, but are still keeping most print for now.
- However, the majority do expect to replace print with electronic within the 10 years.
- Although libraries face shelving problems, that is not the primary reason for e-journals.
- Ready access to journal articles is single most attractive aspect; general acceptance of electronic archiving concept is second.
- Concerns about cost and long-term commitment. Costs must be much lower than shelving costs.
- Libraries do not trust publishers to archive.

# Meeting Conclusions

- Most library directors don't know print shelving costs, but assume they're high.
- Microfilm has many negatives that e-journals don't have.
- Very interested in article pay-per-view for journals not subscribed to.
- Remote access important.
- Libraries are concerned with the long-term viability of the "archivist".
- Libraries still feel most comfortable knowing there is a paper archive somewhere.

# Future of ECO Archive

- Continue archiving on behalf of libraries
- Create an open system
- Work with subscription agents and other aggregators
- Continue adding more content

# OCLC's Role in Archiving

- Provide archiving services for some third parties (JSTOR, NetLibrary)
- Promote Dublin Core metadata standard
- Link to other archives
- Participate in electronic archiving standards group
- Help create "Best Practices" for libraries, content creators

# OCLC Participation

- RLG and OCLC
  - Attributes of a Digital Archive for Research Repositories
  - Preservation of Metadata for long-term retention
- CLIR and Digital Library Federation
- Preservation Resources

# Conclusions

- Many archives will arise
- Standards are critical:
  - **Metadata for linking archives**
  - **Standards to become a trusted repository**
  - **Standards for creation of data to be archived**
  - **Standards for preservation**
  - **Which content to archive**
- OCLC will work with libraries, publishers and third parties to help create, promote, and implement electronic archiving standards