Preface

Electronic resources (e-resources) have made a great impact on library and users. They are available in a variety of e-journals, e-books, full-text/aggregated databases, digitized and born-digital documents, digital images, streaming video sound, and audio books. Operational and organizational issues of these resources pose a huge challenge to information managers. There is an urgent need to discuss these issues and find optimum solutions for managing these digital resources.

There is a need to have a “one-stop solution” for their evaluation, selection, acquisition, renewal/cancellation, license agreement, open access and institutional archives, access rights, usage statistics, single access point, copyright, implementation, and administration. Electronic Resource Management System (ERMS) exist but their proliferation has also become another issue for libraries to select the right one.

Progressive Trends in Electronic Resources Management in Libraries is an attempt to identify the various issues in the management of e-resources. Authors from different countries provide an international perspective to the subject. The book provides relevant theoretical and practical details and empirical research findings in this area. It also discusses the current e-resources landscape with a detailed discussion of specific aspects of e-resources management. The chapters are devoted to the theoretical details, history, selection, acquisition, fair use, and management of e-resources.

The book will be of use to a beginner in knowing about e-resources and a librarian in understanding the issues in e-resource management. Students will find it a useful source to grasp the issues associated with e-resources. Researchers will be able to identify areas for research in the subject.

This book consists of twelve chapters dealing with the complete life cycle of e-resource, cost benefit analysis, digital copyright, open e-resources, and innovative services by e-resources including E-Resources Management Systems (ERMS). The following paragraphs present the structure of the chapters.

Chapter 1, “Electronic Resources: History, Scope, and Challenges – An Overview,” addresses the concept of e-resources and the scope and challenges of e-resources management in libraries. E-resources began with MARC (Machine Readable Catalogue) developed in the mid 1960s and has progressed to e-journals, e-books, Websites, and File Transfer Protocol (FTP). Infrastructure gaps and other sundry issues like funding, access model, archiving, preservation, ownership versus access, and lack of continuity in publication are some of the challenges highlighted in the management of e-resources in libraries.

Chapter 2, “Considerations of a Digital Age: The Hows and Whys of Electronic Resource Management from a Collection Development Perspective,” talks about electronic resources from a collection development perspective and explains issues collection development staff may need to address when electronic resources are incorporated into the existing collection. These issues include costs and benefits of electronic resources and faculty/staff reactions to the incorporation of new materials. This chapter also strongly advocates the addition of an electronic resource manager or multiple electronic resource staff members and their close cooperation with the collection development staff.
Chapter 3, “Convergence towards Excellence Diversity: Mapping the Field of E-Resources Emerging Dynamics,” discusses excellence and looks beyond the dominant line of e-resources research where transitions cycles in information management, knowledge management, competences management, and performance management are the multi-contextual value creators for individuals and organizations. This is done by an extensive review of European policies (Single Information Market, Agenda for Culture) in two steps: first, excellence triggers are analyzed, discussing digital agenda and consumer culture; next, an integrated model of e-resources excellence management is presented. It locates the argument for the importance of convergence in excellence diversity where e-resources are uniquely and contextually interpreted, requiring understanding, and assesses customer consumption processes as an experiential, social, and cultural phenomenon. A variety of informational behaviors, skills, and activities is the measure of the complexity of personal values possibilities and of excellence frameworks development, maturity, and sustainability.

Chapter 4, “Patron-Driven Acquisitions: A Progressive Model for the Selection of Electronic Resources,” discusses Patron Driven Acquisitions (PDA) for an effective acquisition model in building “just-in-time” monograph collections to support the information and curricular needs of a variety of users in different settings. Implementation of the PDA model for electronic and print books for the users of Arizona State University (ASU) Libraries has been exemplified in this chapter. The chapter also explores the history of the use of PDA in a variety of library settings, application of PDA to the purchase of e-books at ASU from the perspective of an Electronic Resources Librarian and a Subject Librarian and Administrator of a branch library, and provides a sustainable model, which may be applied in different types of library settings.

Chapter 5, “Going Online: Subscription of Electronic Journals and its Cost Benefit Analysis,” discusses in detail electronic journals (e-journals), their advantages and disadvantages, and need for subscription. In selection of e-journals, identification of e-journals, their evaluation and purpose for subscription are important considerations for selection of more relevant resource for its patrons. The authors also discuss cost benefit analysis of e-journals and elaborate cost involved in subscription of print and electronic journals and provide their cost benefit analysis.

Chapter 6, “Copyright and Licensing Essentials for Librarians and Copyright Owners in the Digital Age,” covers some aspects of copyright, whether it is document delivery, electronic reserves, online learning tools and course management systems (e.g. Blackboard), or online modules which allow one to share one’s references and full-text attachments with others (e.g. RefShare). It also discusses copyright and licensing negotiations with content providers.

Chapter 7, “Comparative Analysis of Electronic Resource Management Systems (ERMS): A Web Study,” discusses Electronic Resource Management Systems (ERMSs) – open source and proprietary products for managing e-resources. The main purpose of these ERMSs is to manage the workflow of e-resources, access, centralizing data, and improve administrative interfaces. This chapter compares and analyzes the 16 ERMSs and their functionality, standards and compatibility, features, modules, etc. with usefulness and weakness for Librarians and End-Users. These 16 ERMSs are Innovative Interface’s Innovative ERM, TDNet ERM Solutions, Ex Libris’s Verde ERM, OCLC’s Web-Share License Manager, SemperTool’s SMDB, University of Notre Dame’s CORAL, MIT’s VERA, SerialsSolutions’s 360 Resource Manager, HARRASSOWITZ’s HERMIS, The Johns Hopkins University’s HERMIES, Colorado Alliance’s Gold Rush, WT Cox’s Journal Finder, EBSCO’s EBSCONET ERM Essentials, Simon Fraser University Library’s CUFTS, SIRSI Corp’s E-Resource Center, Priory Solution’s Research Monitor. This study concludes with usefulness and weakness of ERMS for Librarians and End-Users.
Chapter 8, “Knowing Protection of Intellectual Contents in Digital Era,” identifies the ways to avoid plagiarism and mentions the use of anti-plagiarism software. It explores how far a scholarly work can be treated under the periphery of “fair use.” The various derivatives of creative commons are also explained to accustom authors regarding availability of copyright issues in the digital era. The essences of projects like SHERPA/RoMEO and COPE are also discussed.

Chapter 9, “Open E-Resources in Libraries,” discusses the background of open access resources and its initiatives, software, open archives browsers and harvesters, and open access registries. It elucidates the most important international and national projects like the European Library, Europeanana, the World Digital Library, Gutenberg Project, Google Books Project, Hathitrust Digital Library, Digital Public Library of America, International Children’s Digital Library, the Library of Congress Digital Library, Gallica of the French National Library, National Digital Library of China, etc. The idea behind this chapter is that the world’s knowledge should be accessible as a public good to every citizen of the planet.

Chapter 10, “Riding the Waves of Change for Electronic Resources at the Library and Learning Commons, Monash University Sunway Campus: From Vision to Reality,” contributes to the discussion of electronic resources. This chapter shares the experiences and challenges that the Library and Learning Commons, Monash University Sunway Campus, Malaysia, faced in progressing electronic resources. It discusses two major actions undertaken, namely (1) the implementation of an e-books acquisitions policy and (2) the implementation of search, a Web resource discovery service undertaken in collaboration with Monash University Library Australia. The initiative to realize the action plans and the progress made are also discussed, and outcomes and the learning experiences are shared.

Chapter 11, “Embracing Change: How South Ayrshire Council Library Service Became a World Leader in Electronic Resources Management,” outlines the successful management style that has pro-actively facilitated innovative changes to a range of library services. This changes discussed are those facing all contemporary libraries starting with an overview of service provision, staffing, the management team, and management style, and the chapter considers the factors required for the effective implementation of innovation in a range of services. The topics covered include creating a library “blog,” the benefits of a library bookshop, e-book lending, e-book publishing, creating a library mobile app, and e-magazine lending. The chapter argues that fellow librarians can embrace change and facilitate innovation in ways that are efficient, cost-effective, and cutting-edge, whilst reinforcing the importance of libraries at the centre of our society. Two key factors that are discussed in this chapter on the success of implementing ERM innovation in South Ayrshire Library are effective leadership of a motivated team of professional librarians, combined with library staffs who feel valued. It outlines how ERM projects were successfully managed, developed, and implemented by South Ayrshire Council Library Service.

Chapter 12, “Towards Innovative Library Services: A Case Study of Indira Gandhi National Open University, India,” discusses emerging innovative technologies and services for managing e-resources and examines how Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Library is increasingly benefited by its new and future services. It discusses the National Open Distance Learners’ Library and Information Network (NODLINET), a project of IGNOU Library created for distance learning libraries for sharing collections, e-resources, and services on a common platform. The chapter also discusses how IGNOU Library is moving towards innovative Library Services by providing its users with updated contents and constantly strengthening service capability in the network information environment. It explains in detail the component of Remote Access to e-resources, which is a quick, easy, and convenient service to gain
off-campus access to all IGNOU Library subscribed databases and other online resources. The chapter also enumerates the copyright restrictions and licensing restrictions through Remote Access Service and discusses in detail various other initiatives taken by IGNOU Library like cloud computing, course reserves, discovery, and AtoZ services.

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