PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS

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Goal: to ascertain true experiences of libraries working to maintain perpetual access for electronic journals that have been canceled, have ceased, or have transferred to different publishers

- Posted to ERIL-L, LIBLICENSE-L, and SERIALST
- Open for six weeks from August 6 through September 17, 2013
- A total of 200 responses were received
SOME DEMOGRAPHICS

Type of Institution
- 74% University
- 12% 4-year college
- 0% Community College
- 14% other (Medical and Law libraries, Government institutions, Nongovernmental research institutes)

Library Serials Budget
- 60% - $1 million or more
IN WHAT SITUATIONS HAS YOUR LIBRARY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVOKE AND THUS TEST PERPETUAL ACCESS PROVISIONS FOR ELECTRONIC SERIALS?

- Individual canceled titles: 80%
- "Big Deal" canceled packages: 26%
- Transferred titles: 62%
- Ceased titles: 60%
- Other: 6%
How often has your library been able to successfully provide perpetual access?

- Always: 13%
- Often: 39%
- Sometimes: 40%
- Rarely: 6%
- Never: 2%
WHEN PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS IS SUCCESSFUL, HOW IS IT PROVIDED?

- Continuing to link to publisher's/provider's website: 87%
- Linking to content stored on a library server: 9%
- Linking to a membership archive such as LOCKSS, CLOCKSS or Portico: 56%
- Referring to CD-Roms, DVDs, or external hard drives that can be accessed upon request: 14%
- Other, please specify: 7%
COMMENTS REGARDING SUCCESSFUL PERPETUAL ACCESS

- Preference for linking to the publisher/provider site
- Frustration with CD-ROMs/other external hard drive formats
- Success doesn’t always come without a fight
WHEN PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS IS UNSUCCESSFUL, WHAT ARE THE REASONS?

- The library does not have the staff needed to complete the extensive work involved: 45%
- The library does not have the money for the fee required by the publisher for continued access: 26%
- Perpetual access is not offered in a form workable for our users (e.g. only in the form of a CD-Rom): 51%
- Lack of payment documentation
  Claim denials following title transfers
  Lack of license
  Usage not worth perpetual access fee
- Other: 36%
COMMENTS REGARDING UNSUCCESSFUL PERPETUAL ACCESS

- Payment documentation shortfalls, particularly for payments more than five years old
- Difficulty of dealing with transferred titles
- Frustration with the vagueness of license agreements
- Declaration of the extensive work involved
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING UP AND MAINTAINING PERPETUAL ACCESS?

A “group effort” involving:
- Librarians
- Support Staff
- Information Technology personnel
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS?

Four areas emerged as particularly challenging:
- Extensive work involved
- Documentation
- Dealing with transferred titles
- License issues
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS?

- Extensive work involved
  - Determining eligibility
  - Setting up linking
  - Checking and re-checking access
  - Claiming lost access
  - Dealing with external content (CD-ROMs) and/or archiving
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS?

- Documentation
  - Payment history older than 5 years
  - Determining “core” or “subscribed” titles
  - Determining *when* perpetual access entitlement began
Dealing with transferred titles
- Clear source of frustration
- Time-consuming
- New publisher doesn’t honor previous publisher’s agreement
- Where to track?
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF PROVIDING PERPETUAL ACCESS?

- License issues
  - Vagueness of license wording
  - Older licenses
  - Publishers that do not offer perpetual access
  - Publishers that do not use licenses
- Generally positive
- Importance of perpetual access
- Non US/UK publishers unfamiliar with perpetual access
- Role of consortia
SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- High success rate for providing perpetual access!
- General positive comments
- Lack of standardization, numerous challenges
  - Extensive, time-consuming work involved
  - Record keeping shortfalls
  - License agreements and wording
  - Uncertain nature of transferred titles
FUTURE

- Record keeping improvements → alleviate time/workload
- Standardization?
  - Licenses (vagueness, wide range of ways in which perpetual access can be offered)
  - National Registry
- Transferred titles
  - TRANSFER Code of Practice Version 3.0!!
  - “The receiving publisher will ensure that any content that has been previously published under license without charge to users will continue to be made available under the existing terms.”

THANK YOU!

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