



ALIA eBooks and eLending Think tank Public library challenges and issues

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Yarra Plenty Regional Library

- 8 branches and a mobile
- Outreach vehicle
- 352,098 population
- 141,081 library members (40%)
- 3.6 million loans
- 438,258 items
- 1.39 million visits





Brisbane City Council Library Service

- 33 branches + 1 mobile
- 1,079,392 population
- 470,671 members (43%)
- 10 million loans+
- 6.41 million library visits
- 1.37 million items





2008 (pre eBook explosion)

- Loans (all formats) – Brisbane – 403 (eBooks – 145)
 - Yarra Plenty – 47 (eBooks – 28)
- Collection (all formats) – 916 items
- Unavailable content
- DRM
- Loan period inflexibility
- Staff uncertainty
- Clunky download capabilities
- Device incompatibility
- iPod/iPad incompatibility



2013 (Kaboom!!)

- Loans (all formats) – Brisbane – 13,300 (eBooks – 10,864)
- Yarra Plenty – 4,681 (eBooks – 3,656)
- Brisbane – 172% increase from 2011-2012 – YPRL – 136%
- Collection (all formats) – 21,770 items



Content:

- Some publishers refusal to supply eBooks to libraries.
- Patrons expect latest releases – limited availability.
- Local and self published content is limited for libraries if these titles are not available via a platform.
- Libraries unable to accept local titles being added to platform if authors/publishers unwilling to sign vendor's agreements.
- Publishers are developing the profile of eBook collections in libraries.



Procurement:

- Expense of introducing downloadable collections.
- Expectation that vendors will lobby, negotiate with publishers to develop mutually acceptable pricing and licensing models.
- Expansion of geographical rights needed.
- Potential for emerging new platforms to create duplication.
- Pricing of ebooks for libraries often higher than consumer price.
- Minimum purchase requirements.
- Procurement models are inconsistent – ownership, leasing, subscription, loan limits, patron driven, pay-per-use.
- Vendor reluctance in establishing consortias.



Access and Lending:

- No seamless integration of eBooks within existing library discovery and delivery platforms.
- Library patrons are discouraged by complicated loan processes, holds queues.
- Comparison with Amazon, iTunes – ease of use.
- Range of devices is difficult to support.
- Currently, no capability for Inter Library Loans.
- Provision of resources in various formats offers community choices and opportunities for equal access.



Reading discovery:

- eBook records integrated into the catalogue- one stop shop.
- Public libraries' core business is to create new audiences for reading.
- Important role of libraries to guide/assist the intergration of print with digital.
- Creation of spaces which invite interaction around eReading.
- Patron and staff education and training – successful user experience.



Current developments:

Locally:

- Tomorrow's library – common platform for digital material

Globally:

- IFLA
- Readers First
- Canadian model
- ALA's eBook toolkit



Food for thought:

Libraries Future Collections Research Report (Brisbane City Council Library Service)

- 65% borrow or download for free,
- 85% of eBook readers not utilising library eBook collections,
- 51% of respondents would start borrowing eBooks within the coming year,
- 58% believed that in 5 years time all titles should be equally available at the library in print and eBook format,

Food for thought:

