

# THE ROLE OF LICENSING IN ELECTRONIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT(ERM): AN OVERVIEW

**By-**

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# ABSTRACT

**As libraries build ever larger collection of Electronic Resources, finding ways to manage them efficiently become a major challenge. The number of electronic journals, eBooks, citation databases and full text aggregations held by most libraries has grown rapidly. Managing these electronic resources involves providing library resources with convenient ways to find an access them and providing library patron the most reliable scholarly resources in electronic media. Libraries need to implement an ERM system to better manage the information flow and to better administer their electronic resources. The terms and conditions for using these resources are set out in electronic resource licensing agreement between publisher and libraries. Several issues relating to licensing agreement between the publisher & libraries are briefly discussed in this paper.**




# KEYWORDS

- Electronic Resource Management (ERM)
- Licensing
- LOCKSS
- COUNTER
- SERU



# INTRODUCTION

- ERM is the practices and software system used by libraries to keep track of important information about electronic information resources, especially internet based resources such as electronic journals, full text databases, and electronic books. The idea of developing electronic resources management system emerged in 2001-2002, growing out of research by Tim Jewell at the University of Washington.
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# DEFINITION

- ERM may be defined in various ways. Marshal & Kawasaki (2005) focused on an approach to project management;
- Jasper & Sheble (2005) emphasized on a broader concept like a content management system to create web pages, provide administrative functions & track license agreements; and Brown, Nelson & Wine burgh-freed (2005); Robbins & Smith,2004.



# FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF MANAGING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- There are two fundamental aspects to managing electronic resources:
  1. The front end details of delivering the content to library users and
  2. Managing the business detail on back end staff functions related to acquisition, payment and licensing.



# BACK END MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR LIBRARY STAFFS

- Traditional online catalogue approach
- e-Journal holding data services

## Front end management: Delivering access to users

- Link from the online catalog
- e-Journal locator resource
- Linking to full text



# LIFE CYCLE OF AN E-RESOURCE:

- The typical life cycle of an electronic resource has following stages:
  1. **Discovery:** The awareness of an e-resource originates from requirement and intended by the member. The librarian find useful information linked with collection management tool.
  2. **Trial:** In many cases, a librarian wish to try out e-resource before deciding whether to purchase or not, so a trial for certain period is requested. During the trial process, the librarian activates the e-resource in designed area of the library environment, notifies the relevant audience and obtains feedback. The librarian needs to document issues related to web browser and plug in compatibility. When trial is over, the librarian should be able to justify the choice of interface to the institution as well as it's patrons.





3. **Selection:** A decision will be taken whether the e-resource will be purchased or not.
4. **Acquisition:** If the library decides to go forward and subscribe the e-resource, then acquisition process is carried out which involves information about the licence and availability of the e-resource to multiple users. Librarian should have option to pay one lump-sum for the whole package of the journal or pay per individual title. The print and electronic format may be linked in such a way that the cancelation of print format would invalidated the licence agreement for e-version of resource. The librarian may have the option to handle the payment between the licensor and the interface provider.



5. **Access:** Access is a prime issue while you are dealing with e-resource. Issues like access by a specific user community or by remote users (through proxy setup) also need to be solved. After the initial configuration of access librarian must deal with routine maintenance, temporary unavailability of e-resource and changes in the providers address.
6. **Decision to renewal or cancel:** An e-resource subscription is strictly valid for a defined time period. When the period ends, the librarian must either renew the subscription or cancel it. The decision is based on the information accumulated in the management system. Actual usage of e-resource can be perceived from usage statistics supported by COUNTER provided by the publisher.



# LICENSING ISSUES & PRACTICES

- Unlike print publications, e-resources are not purchased outright and usually require a license agreement to be in place. Prior to purchase, the license must be reviewed and negotiated to inform and support the evaluation process and to ensure that it reflects the selectors expectations.
- In the field of e-journals, the license controls the access to 3 levels of data:
  1. Current year
  2. Back issues
  3. Copy of the current year provided by the publisher in a standard format which can be installed in a local site as an archive copy.



- It is preferable to obtain a standard model license agreement that clearly describes the rights of the library in easy to understand and explicit language. In some countries, such as US, new approaches i.e. SERU-a Standard E-Resource Understanding which relies on existing US copy right law & a mutual agreement between the resource provider and the library to operate within a framework of (Shared understanding and good faith) are emerging as an alternative to license agreement.



- **Access concerns:** Licensing and agreement must include certain points governing access to e-resources by a library patron; which a library, governing body or consortium signs.
- Authorized users and authorized sites.
- Method of access
- Archiving policy and perpetual access.
- The LOCKSS Program
- Use of e-resources
- Use of e-resources
- Inter Library Loan (ILL)
- Pay-per-view
- Viewing, Downloading and Printing
- Course packages
- Course reserves



- **User statistics:** The information provider should provide statistics for each library's use directly to the e-content. New standards related to ERM, besides those developed by SUSHI (Standardised Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative), include the COUNTER standard. Launched in March 2002, COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) is an international initiative serving librarians, publishers and intermediaries by setting standards that facilitate the recording and reporting of online usage statistics in a consistent, credible and compatible way. The first COUNTER Code of Practice, covering online journals and databases, was published in 2003.



- **Liability for unauthorized use.**
- **Privacy, confidentiality of user information.**
- **Vendor support for technical consideration:** Following issues should be addressed at time of purchase of license by library:
  1. Linking service
  2. Content consistency
  3. Bibliographic data
  4. Commencement date
  5. System integration
  6. Technical support
  7. Notification Process
  8. Customer support
  9. Web Browser Accessibility
  10. Documentation
  11. Linking to e-resources



# **FLEXIBILITY AND ENHANCEMENT:**

- Cancellation
- Value for money
- Drop out clause

# **LEGAL ISSUES:**

- Terms of payment
- Grace Period
- Governing Laws
- Language of License agreement





## REVIEW AND RENEWAL PROCESS:

- The library should review available usage statistics to help to determine if the use of the resource justifies retention and renewal of the resource.

## CONCLUSION:

- Publishers of electronic materials have strategically employed license agreements to sell their information resources. License agreement provides a continuous revenue stream compared to one time sale of printed information. The library community has responded to these developments by creating principles for licensing of e-resources and drafting standard license agreements. However most license agreements currently in use are drafted by publishers and thus favour their positions. Librarians should be wary of these agreements and scrutinize them carefully to ensure that they don't restrict the needs of their user.



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THANK YOU.....!!!!

