

eBooked!

Integrating Free
Online Book Sites
Into Your Library
Collection



H. Anthony Bandy

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Sites into Your Library Collection

H. Anthony Bandy



LIBRARIES UNLIMITED

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Introduction

I love being a librarian! There's something about libraries and books and helping patrons find the information they are looking for that makes it so satisfying as a profession. I also love books, either opening the latest shipment at the library or reading some of the volumes I have at home. There's just something about a physical book that's hard to completely describe. If you work in a library—either as staff, librarian, or administrator—then perhaps you feel the same way.

However, our world, our work, and our very definition of what a library is and does has completely changed in just the past few years. Cuts in both budgets and library funding have become the norm, while the Internet and easy digitization continue to transform our information exchanges. Our patrons are different as well—they expect more, both on a professional level as well as a resource level. From the librarian or staff perspective then, these transformations can make for challenging times.

No bigger adjustment can be seen than in the massive popularity and explosion of the digital book (or eBook, as its come to be known). Nothing is truly settled at this point—and we've only begun the transformation that has been led by publishers, authors, and the subject of this book: online digital book sites. With the arrival of the Google Books project, the continued popularity of HathiTrust, and a host of other online sites such as the Open Library, the Internet Archive, and even an old favorite, Project Gutenberg, our patrons and their eReaders—the iPads, the Nooks, the Kindles, and a host of cell phones and other portable devices—are demanding that we change.

As a profession, we're just now approaching this conundrum at somewhat full speed, discussing, Tweeting, and Facebooking all around. But the questions that arise are not simple to solve. For example, how do we

train our staff on this digital revolution? What devices will our library support? Should our library just select a vendor and be done with the whole thing? Others in the profession are not asking questions at all and are instead secretly wishing their libraries, and librarianship, would return to the way things were. I have a message for those people: It's too late, the tide is rising, and you need to rapidly address this burgeoning issue.

Yet some questions now being asked go beyond our duties as librarians and staff. These questions address the whole issue of just what a library is and does. If we stop and consider this on a larger scale, how do changes such as these affect the library as an institution? How does your local community see your library? Is your library known for its forward thinking, or does your community see you as a relic of days gone by? From an internal standpoint, how does this digital revolution affect your budget? How about your technology plan? How about your strategic plan? From a staffing viewpoint, how do you get your staff quickly up to speed on such a shifting target?

These are just a few of the issues we've all heard raised and perhaps even considered ourselves. While we would all like a magic crystal ball to help us figure this out, and we would even settle for some form of standardization, there are really no hard and fast answers at this point. On the other hand, you have to do something. This book is based on the premise that we must go back to what has served us well since the early days of the Mosaic and Netscape web browsers: training and knowledge. Getting your staff up to speed with this digital revolution will go a long way toward helping to solve some of these essential questions we've been asking.

This book can be part of that approach. In this guide, you'll find information, you'll find knowledge, you'll find some questions, and you'll find some answers. So go ahead, highlight it, dog-ear it, and share it. Use this title as the springboard for getting yourself, your staff, and your library up to speed and knowledgeable about this new age and these digital book sites. Use this book as your analog companion, sitting by your keyboard or tablet as you surf. By taking a few moments and reading about each resource profiled here, you can get a better understanding of how these sites work, how to search them, and most importantly, how to use them in your everyday library workflow.

Structure

As you know, every book is different, both in teaching and approach. Some titles are academic in nature, helping readers understand relationships and principles. Others are practical, filled with examples, images, and answers. Which camp does this book fall in? While

principles may be mentioned in passing, as you read the information in each chapter, my hope is that you will find this book to be an indispensable everyday resource. It is not theoretical; rather, it will help you understand and integrate this vital information as you work to serve your patrons.

The book begins by discussing problems many libraries are facing today, from budgets to staffing and more. Then it considers how digital book sites can address some of these issues and perhaps remove roadblocks that are impeding. From there, you'll move on to chapters about specific digital resource sites. What sort of digital resource sites will you explore? While there are many, in this book the list is condensed down to what I call the **Big Four**, plus a few others.

The **Big Four** consists of the following eBook sites:

- Google Books
- HathiTrust
- Internet Archive
- Open Library

There are other digital books sites that will be covered as well, although space constraints permit me to review only a few. Examples of these include Project Gutenberg, DailyLit, ManyBooks, and others. Some of these you may already be aware of, others perhaps not. As you learn about each one, take a look at its origins as well as the background information to understand what the site is intended for. Then move on to the discussion of how to use the resources on each site. You'll learn about searching and using results, along with various methods of integrating each resource into your library. This practical knowledge will go a long way toward helping you to remember specifics about each site as you work with your staff and patrons.

Illustrations and Screenshots

The old cliché “a picture is worth a thousand words” certainly holds true when referencing and teaching others about websites and computers. In my experience in training librarians on eBook technology and databases, I've found that presenting a dry topic mixed in with bullet points and statistics is a sure way to lose my audience and **not** get the message across. Knowing this to be a certainty, in this book I've tried to illustrate what the text is saying by including screenshots where applicable. In this way I hope to ease potential confusion or point out specific thoughts. As you work with each resource and then apply it to your own staff or patrons, you will hopefully remember the necessary information.

Other Resources

While most of the information you'll need is located in the chapters, you'll also find a small dictionary at the back of the book, as well as a bibliography section of sites and other articles. A vast amount of computer jargon is tossed around these days, and this dictionary will help you with specific definitions and abbreviations found in the book's chapters. The bibliography will help you find websites and other items used in researching this title and can provide more in-depth facts as needed.

Stories

Who doesn't love a story? If you've ever led storytime at the library or have experienced storytime as a patron at some point, then you know the fascination we all have with listening to the spoken word. Used to both illustrate and explain, stories can help get your point across in so many ways. In this same vein, this book presents scenarios, fictional libraries, and fictional librarians to illustrate both problems as well as potential solutions. In terms of budget wars, collection development, and even reference desks, hopefully you'll find these stories illustrative and helpful. You might have even experienced something similar to these stories yourself at some point!

Questions

As librarians or library staff, we're attuned to public service and are used to helping with myriads of questions from patrons of all types. From the mundane to the technically specific, we're all experts in one way or another on any number of topics. In this sense then, questions keep us sharp and knowledgeable both about our libraries' collections and our patrons' changing research and information needs.

Likewise, in this book you will find sample questions in each chapter. These reflect the chapter's contents and give you an opportunity to find the answers for yourself, learning more about each resource in the process. They can also be used in staff training. To help out, the answers are provided at the back of the book. However, try the questions first. As you answer, keep in mind that when all is said and done, there's really no right or wrong way. We all are wired differently and answer questions in different ways. So if my answer varies from yours, it's okay. The goal of learning more about the particular resource has been met!

Important Points to Remember

When working with new topics or techniques, sometimes there is just too much to remember. While it's certainly possible to take notes, often just going over the main topics is

enough to help us remember what is important. So at the back of each chapter, you'll find a list of highlights and information—important points for you to remember about each site that has been discussed. These highlights consist of the main ideas from each resource and can serve as knowledge points when working with your staff or even when sharing with patrons.

Some Final Thoughts

So what is the purpose of this book? It is my hope that with this work, you can advocate better integration of these resources into your library. Technology is not a threat and neither are these sites. Rather, they are another set of tools that you can use as a librarian, both with your staff and your patrons, with the end goal being to illustrate to everyone that your library is a valuable resource, not something that can be easily replaced by a website, eBook, or computer file. Contrary to popular belief, I still believe libraries and librarians are relevant even in our current technological age.

Online digital book sites are rapidly changing libraries, and this book can help you and your staff stay informed and be knowledgeable about them. In addition, it provides help with developing the everyday skills needed to integrate these resources into your library work. Is this a perfect resource? Is it a finished resource? The answer is no on both counts, as in this digital age, there are always reinventions and reintroductions. But it is a great start to the ongoing digital adventure that our libraries have become.

I hope you enjoy this book and find it useful.

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Challenges, Issues and a Measure of Success

Millions of books and magazines! Free access to digital materials for your library and your patrons! No extra costs to your already pummeled materials budget! Who wouldn't enjoy access to resources such as this? But we all know this doesn't exist, right? **Wrong!** In reality, access to digital content just like this does exist and is growing at a stupendous rate. Yet, unfortunately, many libraries refuse to even acknowledge that these resources are available, or if they do, only use them to complement their current on-shelf collections and vendor-provided databases. *It doesn't have to be this way.*

Integrating free digital eBook sites such as Google Books, HathiTrust, and others into everyday library services is one of the best options currently available in solving some of the major challenges and issues currently threatening many of our institutions, and to a lesser extent, our library profession as a whole. In this chapter, you will take a look at this in detail, examining both the challenges and increased expectations of libraries, as well as how these sites can help. Along the way, you will look at a few of the digital book sites that will appear in the following chapters. For now, however, let's start with a story, one that might remind you of your library or another library you know.

Did You See Dos Passos?

Working at a small public library somewhere in the Midwest, John and Tracey are very much the typical “multi-hat” librarians. Besides reference, they share in storytime duties and circulation, and they even take a rotation or two in the bookmobile from time to time. While they like their jobs very much, they’ve started worrying about their library.

With severe budget issues as well as staffing changes and a recently failed local levy, things have become tense at work. While the library is doing well this year, future plans are currently on hold as the director struggles with the budget, the library’s aging physical collection, and the continual technology changes and upgrades that cannot be avoided. While John and Tracey were on duty at the reference desk last week, all of these things seemingly came to a crisis point with just one patron.

It was a slow day, so when a local community college professor stopped by with a request for her class, Tracey and John saw it as an opportunity to help out and perhaps boost their library’s image with the local college. In talking with the professor, they found out that classes that fall were focusing on twentieth-century American literature and authors such as Dos Passos, Upton Sinclair, and Edith Wharton. While the local college bookstore had the titles available for purchase, the professor hoped the library might be able to help, providing additional titles for the students on a closed reserve basis.

During this discussion with the professor, both John and Tracey looked at each other anxiously, knowing that due to the massive budget deficit, their materials budget had been significantly reduced. Somewhat hesitantly, they told the professor that while the library had a few copies of these popular works, there were not enough for the entire class, nor could they put their few copies on closed reserve.

Visibly agitated, the professor then asked about the possibility of using the library’s online database subscriptions to access the books. Both John and Tracey again apologized, telling the professor that those resources had been discontinued. However, Tracey and John did mention interlibrary loan as a possibility, or perhaps other libraries in the city could help. It was too late though, and the professor stalked off, angrily shouting that if the library could not help her students, why did it even exist.

This was just one more problem added to many that John and Tracey had faced over the past few months as the library’s hours and budgets were scaled back. Other patrons were upset when they had found out that many popular magazines and newspapers were discontinued. When it was explained that the money for these titles was not available, the patrons still grumbled and argued that the library had wasted the money.

The problems had even affected the library’s genealogy department, a highly popular area that up until a few years ago had been used by many in the community. Previous staffing cutbacks and shorter hours had already reduced access to this part of the library to just a few days per week. Professional genealogists and family researchers had become discouraged, but the director had no choice, as the money was just not present in the budget for these services, nor would it likely be available in the near future.

The Problem

While the preceding scenario is fictional, for many of our communities and their libraries, it is all too close to the truth. Events in Michigan, Ohio, and many other states across America have highlighted the problems that popular community libraries continue to experience in light of a weakened economy, persistent unemployment, and uncertain future funding allocations. Under these circumstances, libraries are expected to do more on many fronts, from providing Internet access and related computer technologies to more new materials in the collection and increased volumes of day-to-day patron services.

Moreover, it's not just the public libraries that have experienced these problems, but other types of libraries as well. Libraries in higher education are also under attack, as campus administrators reduce staff, cut budgets, and still demand the same levels of service to the students and faculty. Business and other special libraries have not been spared either, as executives slash corporate libraries, considering them nonessential and a convenient way to reduce costs for shareholders and investors. In short, libraries of all types are experiencing these challenges now and surely will continue to in years to come.

Unfortunately, at the same time, continued internal structural problems are also affecting libraries, seen across the board in aging material collections, the ever-present flood of technological change, and unstable patron and/or community support. These are serious problems and in the next few years will become even bigger as libraries and their staff struggle to keep up. Let's look more closely at some of these internal problems.

Aging Collections

For many years, the heart of the library has been the collection. It has been the main focus of the budget and provided easy access to books and magazines in a wide variety of ways for all types of patrons' information needs. However, given the digital revolution in last 20 or so years, most everyone in the library world is finding out that these book and serials budgets are often in direct competition with the growing technology needs of the library. Computers, software, and integrated library systems are not cheap, and collection budgets, being the easiest target, have often been raided to keep up funding for continued technology hardware and software.

While in the near term, reductions in materials collections can be made to offset these and other needs within the library, the longer-term effects are detrimental in so many ways, from a lackluster and shallow collection to a raft of aging materials that no one wants to check out. For patrons who expect the library to have the physical materials on a diverse group of subjects and stories, this can be a huge disappointment. It goes without saying that this is a maddening conundrum for the library administration and staff as well!

Technology Access and Change

There's no doubt about it, technology in the library is the proverbial two-edged sword. It's expensive and very often a time trap for library staff. On the other hand, it's also helpful and expected to be present in today's library environment by both our patrons and staff. As noted in various publications from both the American Library Association (ALA) and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), library patrons have grown to expect technologies such as genealogy databases, technology training, public computer access, and even computer troubleshooting. This is the "new normal."¹ For bigger and better-funded libraries, this is not a terribly huge issue because they often have more funding options and adequate budgets; for smaller and mid-size libraries, this is a tremendous problem and one that is not going away any time soon.

Community Support

As noted in the articles cited in the preceding paragraph as well as our everyday experiences working in this environment, the library, specifically the public library, is continuing to, and has become quite often, the "default" focal point for many communities, in which residents and library users make heavy use of public meeting rooms and free computer-use stations as well as the more traditional storytime and summer reading programs.

However, in an ironic twist of circumstance, and because of failing levies, a faltering tax base, and other financial issues now existing in many communities, the library is often seen as an expendable place where cuts can be made. After all, as many would argue, would you rather have police and fire protection or the library open seven days a week? Unfortunately for many villages, towns, and larger cities, this is the decision that has to be made. When faced with these hard choices, communities often go without library access, which provides temporary relief, but in all actuality, harms their residents more than anyone realizes.

Our Changing Libraries and Patrons

While it may be easy to speak of the easily quantified and visible problems faced by libraries, are you, your patrons, or even the public at large aware of the quiet revolution from within? As we can see from the rise in popularity of digital materials and eBooks to the increased information expectations held by library patrons, this internal upheaval sometimes provokes more problems than almost any other issue.

For example, digital materials, in the form of eBooks and eReaders, while still a fairly new technology, are now assuming roles of primary importance within library institutions. Mentioned daily in the media, as well as being publicized and promoted by retailers such as

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, and others, eBooks are changing the game for libraries in many ways. Vendors are advertising them, publishers are pushing them, and patrons are demanding them. If you don't think these technologies are important, consider that today, in many cases, it is understood that eBooks outsell paper books, especially as noted by retailers such as Amazon in their various press releases.²

If this surprises you, it shouldn't—and it's only the beginning. However you feel, the library, the one institution that most of us think would be in the forefront of these changes, is in many cases, just now coming to grips with this impending technological revolution. While some libraries and administrative staff are addressing these changes and planning ahead for the future digital library, quite a few are not, with some even refusing to consider eBooks at all.

The Rise of Electronic Content

As dramatic as it is, this revolution has not happened overnight. Thinking back to the early years of the Internet when Gopher and Mosaic were new, were we not all amazed at the amount of information that could be found even then? During the digital revolution and the rise of the Internet in the late 1990s, the concept of eBooks was one that while faint, was destined to grow, even if for some the thought of digital books taking over paper collections was almost laughable, a somewhat fanciful dream given the technology of the times.

However, technology and Moore's law both move fast and so did eBooks and easily accessed electronic information. More powerful computers, high-speed Internet, and the massive increase of software specifically designed for these new environments began to turn the tide from analog to digital. Through the first Internet bubble and beyond, the advances kept coming, and libraries—as well as library staff—were incorporating these changes as quickly as budgets would allow.

In today's world, we've gone far beyond those early pioneering Rocketbooks, PalmPilots, and others, and now have everyday familiarity with the new lightweight devices such as the Nook, Kindle, Kobo, the wildly popular iPad, and other types of tablets. The game is changing rapidly. It's not just hardware, however, as we've seen the standardization and acceptance of the eBook as a valid reading source, a turning point in how many people today view the entire reading experience. As noted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in their report released in early 2012: “. . . Altogether, 43% of Americans age 16 and older have read long-form writing in digital format as of December 2011—either e-books or newspaper or magazine material in digital form.”³

While there's absolutely no doubt that paper-based books and other materials will be around for a long time to come, the prospect of digital reading on many types of devices

is here to stay. Some in the popular press even argue that the whole perception of books, content, and materials are about to change, as noted in the discussions at **Unbound: Speculations on the Future of the Book**, a symposium held on May 3 and 4, 2012.⁴ After looking through these resources and others, I need to ask you: Is your library ready?

Our Changing Patrons

As librarians and library staff, when we consider all of these transformations of materials and collections, it's easy to only look internally at how these changes affect the profession as well as the more general institution of the library as a whole. After all, we work every day at our library and have an interest in maintaining its place in the community or academic/business environment. Keep in mind, however, that no matter what type of library you work in, patrons in your city, county, school, or other location are a factor in your success. It's this demand point that keeps us all in business and functioning as part of the larger community.

In this light, and taking into account the displacements spoken about so far, you must also admit that your patrons are changing as well, both in what information they are looking for as well as how they acquire it. No longer are your patrons happy with old, stale information. No longer are your patrons bound to the reference desk, content to walk through the stacks, or patiently waiting in line until your library opens for the day. Fulfilling many of their information needs with search giants such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing, our patrons live in the age of instant answers, answers that are often electronic and communicated immediately. The primary channel of communications has become texting, instant messaging, and immediate response via social media giants such as Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest. Anything less is looked on as slow, outmoded, and not as effective.

Let's look at this situation in somewhat more practical terms. The last time you were at a public event, how many people did you see using their phones while they were waiting? Not talking, but using them to acquire information in some format or another? Look at your own information usage. Look at your children. Note the almost explosive growth of the smart phone and the market saturation of iPhones, Android devices, Windows Phones, and iPads. As noted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in their report released in early 2012, more than 46 percent of U.S. adults own or use a smart phone.⁵ These digital choices are now fully mainstream.

Patrons—your patrons and mine—expect this same type of instant and informed response from their library as well. Patrons just don't want to wait. They want always available, always “on” access—24/7, 365 days a year. Commercial providers already do this—So

why can't the library meet this need as well? This is the arena in which our profession and institutions have been placed, and we need to realize this.

However, have librarians accepted this? For the most part, one has to look no further than the many libraries and librarians on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites to see that many librarians realize that things are radically different and accepted methods must change. As professionals, librarians are attempting to go in new directions to find new methods of access and assisting patrons with their information needs as fast as possible.

However, there are libraries that have yet to accept this, not fully understanding how patrons truly use and expect information to be made available today. They don't seem to fully understand that pointing to a shelf of paper reference books or even a public catalog terminal is no longer adequate. These are the libraries that may have trouble in the future. These are the libraries that may be left wondering where their patrons have gone. What is your library doing about this? Digital resources, and access to them, will become more and more important to libraries seeking to have a place in their communities—and to remain relevant in these changing times.

Free Online Digital Book Sites and Collections: A Possible Solution?

Given then all of the challenges faced by libraries, what can we do as a profession? What can you do to change the situation within your local library? Is there even a solution? While so far there seems to be no “one-size-fits-all” magic answer, by looking at where technology has brought us so far, and with an eye to the future, one logical answer can be seen in the adoption of free online book sites into the library acquisitions and catalog collections process.

By utilizing the resources already available online, as well as taking advantage of new items coming online, our libraries can radically change for the better and meet these challenges head on. With these types of resources, the instant 24/7 access, and no additional costs, there's a lot to like. When patrons see the addition of millions of digital resources and easy access via the library's integrated library system (ILS) or website, they will see their library in a more favorable light.

This approach is not, however, as simple as just linking to available digital materials somewhere on the Internet. Advanced planning by both library staff and administration is needed, as is strategic planning and practical procedures to implement these additional resources. However the process goes, *all* libraries can benefit—from the small library with limited resources and staff to the larger, well-funded library. For too long, sites such as

amazement when there is enough time to explore and fully understand what can be done without worrying about other job responsibilities.

Also, make sure that the technological tools needed to get the job done are available for use. In other words, if the public computing and staff workstations cannot properly read a PDF or ePub file, your staff will be less inclined to use these resources for learning about these resources or sharing them with patrons. As a final note, ensure that whoever is responsible for this actually follows up with staff after any training, helping to address any lingering questions or problems with the new materials and methods.

Technical Issues

Technology, especially new technology, can be fun. However, it does not come without costs, some of which are not always monetary in nature. Costs can be seen in implementation, everyday usage, and planning for future models of growth and integration. These themes can be troublesome for libraries that rush into things without planning ahead for possible roadblocks.

Take, for example, a library planning on incorporating items from Google Books into their website. Who is responsible for making the plan? Who will test the coding before going live—will it be the technology staff or the reference department staff? Who will make sure that the web browsers on the public workstations are up to standard and able to use the special technologies that are sometimes used by these sites?

From an everyday use perspective, what happens if something on the site breaks, or the web browsers or other software doesn't work as it should? Anyone who has been using technology for a while knows this is going to happen at some point. What sort of troubleshooting structures should the library have in place to address this?

Let's also consider future models of implementation. What happens if the vendor-based ILS refuses to cooperate with the Google Books application programming interface (API)? If your library hasn't adequately planned for potential technological issues, big problems await.

Patron Awareness

No matter how amazing and wonderful all of these online resources are or how excited your staff is, it doesn't mean a thing if your patrons are not aware of it. Patron awareness and use of the digital resources you are planning to add to your collection are paramount to successful implementation. Although there's really no one specific right way to do this,

Incorporating these four sites and their resources into your new digital strategy can benefit both your patrons and service offerings. Most importantly, your patrons will experience a bigger, better, more accessible, and more useful collection. The end result? No matter what type of library you have—be it public, academic, or special—everyone will benefit.

In case all or some of these sites are new to you, Table 1.1 provides more information about each. In it, you’ll find the online locations of the sites as well as the more common book formats that can be found there. Figures 1.1 through 1.4 also show site logos for each.

Table 1.1 The BIG Four Online eBooks Sites: Location, Common Formats

Site	URL	Book Format	Downloads?
Google Books	http://books.google.com	Online viewer, PDF, ePub, text	Some
HathiTrust	http://www.hathitrust.org	Online viewer, PDF, text, images	Single pages
Internet Archive	http://www.archive.org	Online viewer, PDF, text, many formats	Yes
Open Library	http://www.openlibrary.org	Online viewer, PDF, text, many formats	Yes



Figure 1.1



Figure 1.2



Figure 1.3



Figure 1.4

Why Only These?

Now you might be asking yourself why only these four? What about the sites you’ve been using already or sites your patrons may have mentioned? After all, haven’t some of these other projects been around for a much longer time and don’t they have much more experience doing all of this? The reality is that yes, there are many other sites, projects, and initiatives, many of which have been around far longer than these four resources. However, as mentioned previously, when considered in terms of scope, material resources, and usefulness for everyday library workflow, these main four sites particularly stand out. Let’s take a closer look.

Scope of the Sites

Libraries offer resources to patrons looking for information on any number of subjects. In the same sense, the Google Books project, HathiTrust, the Internet Archive, and the

become easy to understand and search, and they offer many benefits. For example, let's say your patron is looking for some historical information about Carnegie libraries in New York City. While you may have some resources on your shelves and possibly even more in vendor-supplied databases, could you find hundreds of books, magazines, and other historical articles? Just doing a sample search for the phrase "Carnegie Library" in HathiTrust reveals over 445 individual resources to choose from! This is just one search on one of the sites we've mentioned! If you combine this with the other resources, your patron will have a virtual cornucopia of information on Carnegie libraries.

Beyond just searching, however, these sites also offer downloads and other methods of using the source material. They get your patrons the information they need when they need it. Smaller sites and subscription database resources may offer some of this but probably not the depth you will find on any one of these four.

On the Other Hand

Even with the features and advantages the big four offer, I would be remiss not to mention the many other smaller sites that exist and can also be useful. Although not the main focus of this book, some of these will be discussed in later chapters, including Project Gutenberg, DailyLit, and ManyBooks, all of which could be integrated into your library to serve your patrons' information needs or integrated with these four primary sources.

Important Points to Remember

No one would argue that the Internet has not changed our world in many ways. Whether you consider music, books, movies, or any other facet of contemporary life, you must agree that we live in a far different world than in the early 1990s—and the next few years will see equal amounts of change. Our libraries, although today bound with economic troubles and material transformations, are poised to make changes as well, becoming much different institutions than they are now. Taking advantage of these digital resource sites now can help you and your library to make that leap.

Let's review some of the points mentioned in this chapter. Use these as memory joggers, talking points for your own planning, or even in conversations with your staff or your library's board. These points can also get your staff thinking about where they fit into this change. Finally, think about the following in relation to budgets, ongoing projects, and even possible grants.

image

not

available

4. “Unbound: Speculations on the Future of the Book,” <http://futurebook.mit.edu/>.
5. Pew Research Center, “46% of American Adults Are Smartphone Owners,” <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Smartphone-Update-2012/Findings.aspx>.
6. The New York Review of Books, “The National Digital Public Library Is Launched!,” <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/apr/25/national-digital-public-library-launched/>.
7. HathiTrust, <http://www.hathitrust.org>.
8. Internet Archive, <http://www.archive.org/texts>, May 2012.

Resources

Digitization Trends in Everyday Life: Libraries and Patrons

Like it or not, digitization is fast becoming the norm, both in libraries and in the daily lives of our patrons and the rest of society. The following links give some background on these trends, which can be especially useful when formulating your own library’s policies and/or strategic planning for the years to come.

LibConf.com, “CIL Opening Keynote Panel,”
<http://www.libconf.com/2011/03/21/cil-opening-keynote-panel/>

Pew Research Center, “E-Reader Ownership Doubles in six Months,”
<http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/E-readers-and-tablets.aspx>

Pew Research Center, “46% of American Adults Are Smartphone Owners,”
<http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Smartphone-Update-2012.aspx>

Pew Research Center, “Younger Americans’ Reading and Library Habits,”
<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2012/10/23/younger-americans-reading-and-library-habits/>

TechCrunch, “That Was Fast: Amazon’s Kindle Ebook Sales Surpass Print (It Only Took Four Years),”
<http://techcrunch.com/2011/05/19/that-was-fast-amazons-kindle-ebook-sales-surpass-print-it-only-took-four-years/>

Library Crisis—Library Changes

We all know our libraries are changing and being hit with funding issues as the economy struggles to regain its footing. The following sites address some of the issues faced by fellow librarians and their libraries.

Appendix

Table 1A-1 The BIG FOUR Online eBook Sites: General Information

	Google Books	HathiTrust	Internet Archive	Open Library
Estimated Counts (February 2013)	30,000,000 scanned*	10,643,103 total volumes [^]	3,883,214 available titles [^]	1,000,000+ eBooks [^]
Multiple Formats Available?	Yes (ePub, PDF, Plain-Text)	Yes (Images, PDF, Plain-Text)	Yes (Multi)	Yes (Multi)
Can Create Online Collections?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Has Developer Resources or API's?	Yes, some restrictions	Yes, some restrictions	Yes	Yes
Bibliographic Record Access?	No	Limited	Yes	Yes
Advantages or Disadvantages?	Widespread collections, good for academic and general reading; ties into online eBook store	Good for academic research, but item downloads somewhat limited; excellent online catalog with multiple search options	Good across the board resources, good for both academic and general reading; obscure titles available, including government documents, tax rolls and court proceedings	Can directly upload and edit individual records; ties into the resources available on the Internet Archive

[^]Counts as noted on each individual website as of February 2013.

*Estimated as of early 2013. Sourced from The New York Review of Books, "The National Digital Public Library Is Launched!," <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/apr/25/national-digital-public-library-launched/>.

Table 1A-2 Other Online eBook Sites: General Information

	Project Gutenberg	DailyLit	ManyBooks	ibiblio	Baen Free Library
Multiple Formats Available?	Yes (ePub, PDF, plain text)	Yes (images, PDF, plain text)	Yes (images, PDF, plain text, other)	Yes (multiple)	Yes (ePub, Kindle, plain text, other)
Can Create Online Collections?	Yes	Yes	N/A	Limited*	Yes
Has Developer Resources or API's?	Yes, some restrictions	N/A	N/A	Limited*	Yes
Bibliographic Record Access?	Yes	Limited^	N/A	N/A	N/A
Advantages or Disadvantages?	Multiple formats, Dropbox integration, historical and some current titles, diverse subjects; thought of as one of the original eBook sites	Unique delivery methods (email, RSS), popular and classic fiction resources	Multiformat, extensive genre selections; includes popular and classic fiction; around 29,000 titles	Best for collection searches and topics; individual eBooks found within collections	Smaller selection, current fiction titles and popular authors; part of the larger commercial Baen Books

^RSS feeds.

*Not in the traditional sense, but by becoming a contributor, you or your library can create online access and collections along with other resources.

image

not

available

Author: _____

Title Three: _____

Author: _____

Title Four: _____

Author: _____

Title Five: _____

Author: _____

Collection #2 _____

Title One: _____

Author: _____

Title Two: _____

Author: _____

Title Three: _____

Author: _____

Title Four: _____

Author: _____

Title Five: _____

Author: _____

Viewing Results

1. Imagine you're working at the reference desk and a patron comes up looking for information on Charles Lindbergh. In particular, he's looking for some digital results that he can view on his Nook. How would you find materials for the patron? Name some titles that might fit his need and explain how you would go about making these titles viewable on his reading device.
2. HathiTrust makes source materials available in three primary formats. Name these formats and give examples of when each would be appropriate.
3. Imagine you're working at the reference desk one afternoon and an older couple comes to you looking for a fast method for finding and using genealogy resources. Using the collections function in HathiTrust, what can you find on genealogy, and what options in the collection can help them quickly sort the titles?

Notes

1. HathiTrust, http://www.hathitrust.org/mission_goals.
2. HathiTrust, http://www.hathitrust.org/news_publications.
3. University of Michigan Library, <http://www.lib.umich.edu/imls-national-leadership-grant-crms>.
4. University of Michigan Library, <http://www.lib.umich.edu/orphan-works>.
5. Chronicle of Higher Education, “Wired Campus,” <http://chronicle.com/blogs/wired-campus/quickwire-major-libraries-join-controversial-project-to-publish-orphan-books-online/32974?sid=wc>.
6. HathiTrust, http://www.hathitrust.org/authors_guild_lawsuit_ruling.
7. ReadWrite, <http://readwrite.com/2012/10/12/google-closes-two-chapters-in-ongoing-books-fight>.
8. HathiTrust, <http://www.hathitrust.org/partnership>.
9. OCLC, <http://www.oclc.org/us/en/news/releases/2011/20114.htm>.
10. EBSCO, <http://www2.ebsco.com/EN-US/NEWSCENTER/Pages/ViewArticle.aspx?QSID=492>.
11. No Shelf Required, <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/noshelfrequired/2011/09/08/hathitrust-full-text-soon-searchable-in-ebSCO-discovery-service-and-oclc-worldcat/>.
12. HathiTrust, http://www.hathitrust.org/help_digital_library#Download.
13. Creative Commons, <http://creativecommons.org/>.
14. <http://www.hathitrust.org/blogs/perspectives-from-hathitrust/hathitrust-and-discovery>.
15. HathiTrust, http://www.hathitrust.org/statistics_info.
16. HathiTrust, http://www.hathitrust.org/help_digital_library.
17. HathiTrust, <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listcs;colltype=pub>.
18. HathiTrust, <http://www.hathitrust.org/data>.

Resources

Being able to use and understand the HathiTrust project takes time. From the various ongoing digital collection projects to future goals and the role of the project in the library community, there’s a lot to learn. From a librarian’s standpoint (administrator, librarian, or staff), integrating and using HathiTrust in your everyday library work can be challenging and complex. However, there are many available resources, web links, and additional information about the project. Use these to learn more about the HathiTrust project, share with other library staff, and perhaps even let your patrons know about them as well.

Origins

HathiTrust, “Our Partnership,” <http://www.hathitrust.org/partnership>.