Ebookmobile: Delivering Subject-Specific Ebooks to Your Inbox

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Abundance and Austerity

- An abundance of information is available
- Scarcity of resources needed to identify and process it
- True for both libraries and their patrons
Patrons are busy!

- They need library resources
- They need very specific library resources
- They need to know about new ones as they become available
Selective Dissemination of Information

- Concept formalized in the 1950’s

- On an ongoing basis:
  - Find new resources based on an interest profile
  - Alert the patron

- Alerts may be email, RSS, text messaging
New book shelf
Ebooks don’t fit on a shelf

- Not physical, visible, browseable objects
- Ebooks loaded hundreds (or thousands) at a time
- Lengthy title lists are not useful
- Related items may not be collocated
Vendor sites are searchable
Some vendors have alerts

**AccessMedicine RSS Feed**

Have AccessMedicine updates delivered directly to your favorite RSS reader. Daily updates by the editors who make up the editorial leadership of AccessMedicine ensure timely and reliable medical information.

**Updates Include:**

- Concise Reviews and Editorials
- Medical News
- Updates to the books
- New drug therapies
- Late-breaking clinical trial data
...but that’s not sufficient

- That’s a lot of places to check!
- We may not subscribe to all of a vendor’s content
- Patrons may only care about narrow subjects
Catalog ebooks

- Ebooks from all vendors gathered in one place
- Catalog records have useful information indexed for searching
- Links proxied for use off-campus
Keywords?
Subject headings?

• May work somewhat:
  • Fruit trade
    • Fruit trade—History
    • Fruit trade—Ohio

• Broad interests may not find narrower subjects:
  • Algebra
    • Matrices
      • Eigenvalues
Classification!

- QA150-255 – Algebra
- QA188-196 – Matrices
  - QA193 – Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

- Specifying a broad range will find books on specific narrow subjects as well
Do/Should ebooks have call numbers?

- They aren’t actually shelved in the stacks
- Patrons may look at the shelf anyway
- Extra work to assign classification
Classification is often available

- Ebook records are often based on print records
- May appear in bibliographic record, not holdings
- Without call number indexed, searching difficult
Difficult, but...

- Database (blob) searches can be done
- Same searches to be repeated often
- Update results of old search
Ebookmobile

- Software developed at the University of Kentucky
- Finds new ebooks in Voyager based on classification in bibliographic record
- Sends alerts via Atom feed
New titles list for print

UK Libraries New Titles RSS Feeds By Subject

- General Works
- Philosophy, Psychology
- Religion: Religions, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism
- Christianity, Bible
- Auxiliary Sciences of History
- History (General) and History of Europe
- History of Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
- History: American (Western Hemisphere)
- Geography, Maps, Anthropology, Recreation
- Social Sciences
- Political Science
- Law
- Education
- Music and Books on Music
- Fine Arts
Why re-invent the wheel?

- We don’t classify our ebooks in our holdings
- No labeling / processing delay
- When licensing allows, multiple patrons can use simultaneously
Multiple classifications

- A title about SQL may be classified:
  - QA76.73.S67
  - HF5548.5.S65
    - Commerce – Business – Data processing – Computer program languages or markup languages, A-Z – SQL/ ORACLE
Create new feeds

New EBook Feed request

Title: Mathematics
Call Number: QA - QB
Call Number: 
Call Number: 
Call Number: 

Create New Feed
Definitive guide to GCC  EbookMobile  Today, 10:21 PM

Human-Computer Interaction: Design and Development Approaches  EbookMobile  Today, 10:21 PM
Feeds in your email: Outlook

Definitive guide to GCC
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The definitive guide to GCC

Title: The definitive guide to GCC [electronic resource] / William von Hagen.
Author: Von Hagen, William.
Other Author(s): SpringerLink (Online service)
ISBN: 9781430202196 (electronic bk.)
143020219X (electronic bk.)
Description: 2nd ed.
xxix, 550 p. : ill.
Format: Book
Subjects: Compilers (Computer programs)
Internet Access: SpringerLink -- CLICK HERE for Internet access to title
Notes: Includes index.
Electronic reproduction.
Under the hood

- Feeds are Atom 1.0 (similar to RSS)
- Code written in PHP / Javascript
  - Running on separate server (not Voyager)
- A MySQL database stores:
  - Feed specifications
  - Cached information about ebooks, updated daily
- Google Books API for covers
Decisions, decisions

- What makes an ebook new?
  - Only when newly cataloged?
  - When modified?
  - When certain fields (classification) modified?

- How far back to show in feed?
  - Two weeks? One month?
  - Different per feed?
Status/Future plans

- Currently testing with just a few feeds/patrons at UK
- Open more broadly to University of Kentucky library patrons (June 2012)
- Open more broadly to other Voyager customers (Fall 2012)
My questions

• Is EBM more useful as open-source software or as a service?

• Should Patron-Driven Acquisitions discovery records appear on feeds?
Any other questions?