Document Delivery and Resource Sharing: Global Perspectives

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HERMES
Strengthening Digital Resource Sharing
During COVID And Beyond

International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions

ILDS 2022
Qatar
National
Library
Sharing to Heal

مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library

International Resource Sharing Manifesto

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced academic libraries to move exclusively to the Web. The closure led to key issues for the research community: the unavailability of physical collections, the lack of digitalization of paper assets, the inadequacy of catalogues, the absence of information on e-books and electronic resources availability, problems of delivering digital documents to users, and a general lack of competencies in searching and retrieving digital documents. To respond to the COVID emergency in the library field, in April 2020 a group of librarians under the aegis of IFLA created "Resource Sharing during COVID-19" (rscvd.org) the first experiment in free digital resource sharing worldwide.

RSCVD is based on the voluntary contribution of more than a hundred librarians around the world, who worked with the tools available at that moment in order to share documents held in their libraries with the world academic community.

After the success of the RSCVD project in the face of the COVID emergency, the Erasmus Plus Programme grant, through the HERMES project (hermes-eplus.eu), gives us the opportunity to put in place a multifaceted action which can create long-lasting impacts. One of these actions is the forthcoming publication, "Document Delivery and Resource Sharing: Global perspectives", from which we are please to present to you the Manifesto and table of contents. Look for the full publication coming to the IFLA Library soon.

Access to information is an essential element to achieve the sustainable development of human society, and it is one of the fundamental human rights. Since their inception, libraries have played a crucial role in providing access to information to those who need it. However, no library can possess all of the information its users need. At a certain point, a collaboration between libraries is necessary to provide access to all of the information our patrons are seeking.

Helping others in need is the first sign of civilization, and sharing is an act of filling the gap between haves and have-nots. Hence, resource sharing librarians from around the world have expressed the importance of library resource sharing activities that cross national boundaries. By providing the following principles, we wish to provoke ideas and actions for a resource- sharing network that better serves our ever-connected global community.

Reducing Boundaries

We see libraries as cultural heritage institutions, where the collections we build are not just for the community a library serves, but for all of humanity. Hence, we firmly believe that the materials available for a library's users should be available for other libraries' users globally. Our mission is to enable access to library materials

to be as open as possible, in the most efficient manner for our users and for libraries around the world.

Sharing Trends

As a member of the information society, we need to be keenly aware of new types of information media available now and in the future. We have to continuously seek ways of sharing those new media among libraries.

Ease of Access / Facilitating Access

As access to information is one of the fundamental human rights, we should adequately provide different modes of access to satisfy our users' diverse technical and logistical circumstances.

Innovation

Information technology continues to develop rapidly. Resource sharing librarians, in turn, must be knowledgeable about current information technology and must continuously seek new ways to facilitate better, more efficient, and more user-friendly resource- sharing practices among libraries.

Free and Equal Access

We understand that resource sharing activities require significant resources, both financial and human. However, our actions seek to ensure equal access to information to all communities regardless of their financial resources. Hence, we will try to relieve the burden for our users and libraries by seeking the most economical ways to share resources. We encourage libraries to charge minimal or no fees to one another in order to help eliminate financial barriers to access.

Copyright and International Agreements

In doing our work, we value and acknowledge the importance of copyright protection and its purpose of promoting the progress of science and arts in service to all the humanities. Hence, we follow local copyright laws and guidelines, observe international agreements, and propose changes or additions necessary to help our communities.

We live in a diverse global community with different languages, ideas, religions, and cultures. But we believe the differences among us are not for us to judge, criticize, or attempt to changes. They are for us to understand and embrace by studying and accepting with an open mind. Access to information by sharing library resources is one of the best ways to appreciate our differences and make our society more harmonious. Hence, as people say, knowledge is indeed power. Yet sharing knowledge is an action to give knowledge power. We resource- sharing librarians are proud of being the ones who take such critical measures to make our world a better place for all humankind.

Contents

Chapter 1: Resource Sharing Background & Current Environment

Objective: We provide an overview of where things stand today with resource sharing, including key trends, challenges, opportunities, and priorities. This should be a good point of entry for people new to resource sharing, but also stimulating for experienced professionals. Our ambition is for it to become a must-read piece in the wider resource- sharing world.

Chapter 2: Overview of National & International Resource Sharing Systems

Objective: We provide an overview of the key elements of the structures of national and international resource sharing systems. Without looking to be exhaustive, we identify key common characteristics, as well as areas of difference between systems. The chapter should allow the reader to develop a framework to understand, rapidly, how resource sharing systems work in other countries and in general.

Chapter 3: Copyright and Licenses

Objective: We provide a basis for understanding the impact on resource sharing systems from national and comparative international copyright laws and licensing agreements, and from their interaction. This chapter discusses the changing role of interlibrary loan services during and after the COVID- 19 pandemic crisis in terms of copyright, licensing, and international agreements.

Chapter 4: Content Access and Technology

Objective: In this chapter, we provide a primer on key issues, tools, and questions around content access in the context of resource sharing, including the importance of open initiatives to facilitate access.

Chapter 5: Content Management

Objective: To inform and support training, we provide a primer on key issues, tools, and questions around content management and technology in the context of resource sharing.

Chapter 6: Resource Sharing Operations Management

Objective: We provide insights into key issues to consider around the establishment and ongoing operation of resource sharing departments. This chapter provides support for reflection on the topic across the library field.