

A stylized graphic of a circuit board with several nodes and connecting lines. The top part of the circuit is blue, while the bottom part is dark grey. The lines are thick and the nodes are circles.

DIGITAL LIBRARY FUTURES

The Digital Library Futures Project: How does e-Legal
Deposit Shape Our “Digital Universe”

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Talk Overview

- Project introduction.
- What is Legal Deposit? And how did it develop?
- E-Legal Deposit: key questions and challenges.
- Conclusion – on working with libraries.

The Big
Question: what
will our “digital
universe” look
like in the
future?



“Digital Library Futures”

- Two year AHRC-funded project to investigate the impact of e-Legal Deposit on UK Academic Deposit libraries:
 - Case study partners: Bodleian Libraries & Cambridge University Library.
- Focus on academic deposit libraries:
 - Shift focus away from national libraries and towards the specific problems faced within academic libraries.
- First ever public user-centric study of the impact of e-legal deposit.
 - Normally focused on technical, preservation, and long-term aspects of these collections, not contemporary usage.
- Aim to address several challenges created by tension between user and publisher rights.



What is Legal Deposit?

- Legal requirement that a person or group submit copies of their publications to a trusted repository:
- Commonly applies to:
 - Books;
 - Periodicals;
 - Pamphlets;
 - Music;
 - Maps.
- Ensures the systematic preservation of a nation's published output.
- Deposit libraries receive copies of all printed publications, and preserve them for posterity.



The Origins of UK Legal Deposit

- 1610: Informal agreement between Sir Thomas Bodley (founder of the Bodleian Library) and the Stationer's Company:
 - Bodleian could claim a copy of everything printed under Royal License.
- 1662: First legal framework for legal deposit in the UK – extended Royal License to Cambridge University Library.
- 1709/1710: Copyright Act under Queen Anne.
- 1753: Establishment of British Museum;
 - Until this date the Bodleian Cambridge University Libraries were the de facto national libraries of the United Kingdom.
- 1753-1911: Various minor changes, but...



Legal Deposit

- The only relevant act in the whole Twentieth Century: Copyright Act of 1911 confirmed the UK Legal Deposit Libraries:
 - British Museum Library (British Library from 1973);
 - National Library of Scotland;
 - National Library of Wales;
 - Bodleian Library;
 - Cambridge University Library;
 - Trinity College Dublin.

The introduction of e-Legal Deposit

- “Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print) Regulations 2013”:
 - Bring electronic publications into line with printed materials, and cover:
 - Websites;
 - e-Journals;
 - e-Books;
 - Digital Newspapers;
 - Digital Maps.
- Users can access electronic materials within the six legal deposit libraries.
- But what does this mean for us? We are attempting to investigate the following key research problems:



1.) Impact of e-legal deposit on UK academic deposit libraries.

- National and Academic Deposit libraries both share an interest in the long-term viability of legal deposit, BUT:
- Academic libraries have a primary strategic motivator:
 - To make their collections available AND useful to their current readers.
- Users are becoming accustomed to online remote access to library resources.
- Threat to publisher revenues if materials are too widely available.



2.) Usage of e-legal deposit collections within UK academic deposit libraries.

- Focus of research is on technical and preservation aspects, not users.
- Non-textual materials are totally excluded from the regulations:
 - Risk replicating loss of early cinematic movies.
 - Implied hierarchy within digital media – long term implications for how our digital collections are used.
- Differing models of providing access at different institutions.
- Balance between Intellectual Property rights and user needs – where is the sweet spot?





3.) Data-driven innovations in academic research and government policy.

- Emerging forms of digital research are enabled by access to library and archival digital resources:
 - e.g. large-scale text analysis.
- Regulatory shifts elsewhere:
 - 2014: Copyright exemption introduced to allow non-commercial text and data mining of copyrighted materials.
- Libraries changing the way they support users:
 - Digital scholarship support and outreach: e.g. BL LABS!
 - More remote support for users.
- Push-pull between site access to e-legal deposit materials, and common view of data-driven methods...

4.) Barriers to digital inclusion.

- Digital domain viewed widely as positive democratising force.
- Bodleian and Cambridge University Libraries both embed widening participation at the heart of what they do.
- But decades of work show that social inequalities can persist online.
- Legal Deposit has a number of implicit challenges to digital as inherently democratising:
 - On-site access eliminates benefits of digital in providing remote global access.
 - Access to legal deposit materials is under stricter terms than provided for in law.



Quick Reflection: The Value of LIS DREaM

- Methodology is central to this study: it's a complex question, with national, regional and institutional contexts, and varied data sources.
- Exposure to variety of methodological approaches allows us to be more open to introducing new methods to our work.
- Benefits of professional network: I haven't been active within LIS DREaM, but building professional networks as a PhD student helped me to develop research programmes with broader relevance.

That's all folks...

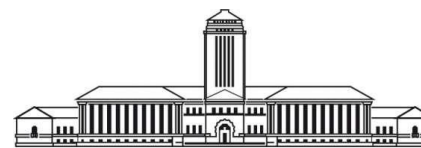
- Thank you for listening!
- Any questions?
- Contact: p.gooding@uea.ac.uk;
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