Is There an Afterlife?
Virtual Hosting and Internet Access to Microfilm and CD-ROM’s

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Sorry....
Current, online resources
Current, online resources

Content in legacy media
Stuff that gets used.

Stuff that doesn’t get used.
Doesn’t take up space.

Stuff that takes up space.
Libraries: Drinking from the Fire Hose
Libraries: Drinking from the Fire Hose
“Legacy Formats”

Clay Tablets

Parchment

CD-ROM

Microfilm

Aperture Cards

Bibliotecarus Frustratus
• **microfilm**
  - cheap
  - stable
  - lots of it
  - easy to use; but users won’t use it

• 'lost generation' of **gap digital content**
  - 'dead end' formats. The “La Brea Tar Pits” of digital content
  - ‘the jukebox’; CD sets, etc.
  - DONGLES
  - not stable (physically, or technically)
  - not necessarily cheap
  - **the problems are not uniform**
    • technical and physical formats
    • licenses
Digital Migration
Hopefully:

- “Modern” format

- Users won’t hate us and will get off our backs

- Platform independence; equipment independence

- Users will be happy. My boss and your boss are happy = we are happy. A shining and happy future of mirth and enlightenment ensues.
Publishing Model for Digital Migration

- Publishers drive selection
- Publishers drive timeline
- Has to make economic sense for publisher
- Skew to “mass” content
But What about Google?

- [Google] drives selection
- [Google] drives timeline
- has to make economic sense for [Google] ????
- skews less to “mass” content

- for users, can be great
  - although skews users expectations
  - may threaten use of published content

- for libraries: may be welcome, but it cannot be called a strategy

- longer term?
Migration of CD’s to Online (Re-Publishing)

- Literally re-make product
- Rights
  - Publishers drive timeline
  - Has to make economic sense for publisher
  - Skew to “mass” content

new platforms, search mechanisms sometimes recreating metadata and tagging, requiring human editing compare metadata, platform for a collection of Legal documents vs. relevant metadata and search logic for a specific manuscript collection not just a technical effort

Blech! Who’s gonna pay for all this?
Migration of CD’s to Online (Re-Publishing)

• Literally re-make product
• Rights

• *Publishers drive timeline*
• *Has to make economic sense for publisher*
• *Skew to “mass” content*

• For foreign content: *language* is an issue (OS language, but also human language), adding more complexity and expense
Migration of CD’s to Online

- **Patterns:**
  - massive humanities corpora (particularly true in Chinese publishing); **seminal content**
  - customer has to “buy content again” (although in fact, buying process and features, not content again)
  - some duplication of by multiple vendors
    - public domain content or “high piracy” environment
    - in pirate environment: cost **and value** reduced
Alternatives
Virtual Hosting

– of CD's
  • No need to recreate platform
    – (including specialty tagging of contents, tables, search mechanisms - e.g.)
    • No loss of features

– of Microfilm
  • can add search and text
  • better ability to “get more” out of same images
“Digital Hippocrene Oath”

• no less function
• no less data
• no modification of original product
• respect license protections and obligations of the publication
“Digital Hippocrene Oath”

- no less function
- no less data
- no modification of original product
- respect license protections and obligations of the publication
- process is external to the product
- the *environment* is what changes
Dividends

Inherently adds new value and function by virtue of the new environment:

- Ubiquitous access
- Multi-user access
- As PC’s evolve and networks get faster, more and more possibilities
- Extremely cost-effective
- Film: text layer can be added; metadata and/or full text can now be navigated and searched
- **Platform and device-independent access**
  - MACINTOSH
Process

- **Microfilm:**
  - scanning, OCR
  - platform mounting
  - nothing terribly new here; biggest shift is in cost/speed of scan capability

- **More innovative:**
  emulation of CD, other legacy formats in new model
Practitioners

• Microfilm conversions:
  – East View
  – ProQuest/UMI
  – Readex (also w/CRL)
  – Newspaperarchive.com

• CD emulation:
  – East View
  – Crossasia.org (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
  – ?
Summary

• Low costs
• New access to existing investments  
  – can also de-accession legacy holdings
• Just plain more efficient; frees budgets  
  to keep tackling increasing waves of  
  new, current digital content
• (OK, maybe a tiny bit sexy?)
Спасибо за внимание!
“Digital Microfilm”
“Digital Microfilm”