Electronic Resources Rocked My World! What's Changed and How We Managed

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Electronic Resources Rocked My World!  
What's Changed and How We Manage

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Can change be managed? Maybe in the broadest sense, but anyone who has been through a system migration, an ERM implementation, or large-scale print-to-digital transition will tell you that an ordered, logical process isn't likely. The plan has to be modified and adapted along the way, because most of us have no idea what we are getting into at the start. We learn as we go, and mistakes contribute to the process as well as the best laid plan. Two steps forward, one step back.

In this issue of Against the Grain, five experienced members of our industry report on the ways that digital resources have changed their work environments. Abigail Bordeaux, the electronic resources librarian at Binghamton University, looks at how our patrons have been affected by an overwhelming number of options: A-Z lists, OPACs, online databases, etc. While we have provided our clientele with a wealth of resources, in many ways, we have complicated the process of finding information. (Even Abigail's husband doesn't stand a chance.) No wonder Google has so much appeal!

Everett Allgood of New York University shares his viewpoint on the impact of digital resources as a serials cataloger and erstwhile area studies librarian. He thoughtfully tackles four broad themes: the loss of the artifact, the homogenization of research library collections, the dreaded multiple versions dilemma, and finally, ERM. Everett believes we've reached the "tipping point" in how we manage online resources, and he has a convincing argument for why this is so.

Anna Creech provides another perspective as the serials and electronic resources librarian at Central Washington University. Anna compares the relatively simple process for managing print to the highly complex and variable process for managing digital publications.  
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