November 2009

@Brunning: People & Technology -- At the only Edge that Means Anything/How We Understand What We Do

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Recommended Citation

Brunning, Dennis (2009) "@Brunning: People & Technology -- At the only Edge that Means Anything/How We Understand What We Do," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 21: Iss. 5, Article 29.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2665>

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The **National Technical Information Service (NTIS)** acquires, indexes, abstracts, and archives the largest collection of U.S. government-sponsored technical reports in existence. Federal depository libraries have access to these online technical reports from the **NTIS** through **DARTS: Depository Access to Reports, Technical & Scientific**. Depository libraries are able to download at no charge the full-text electronic documents for which links are available. **DARTS** provides access to bibliographic records for approximately 240,000 publications from 1964-2000 and links to online content. Access requirements include a validation form that has been signed by the library director and faxed to the **GPO**. A password that is controlled by the library and not given to patrons is also one of the

requirements. Access by simultaneous users is supported but limited to a maximum of 30 workstations. **DARTS** can be accessed from outside the library through an institution's network if limited to the library's primary patrons and if the login is scripted so it remains unknown to the user.

In conclusion, free access to useful and needed resources is an opportunity for libraries with limited fiscal resources but this must be balanced with the potential use of the database. For example, **STAT-USA/USA Trade Online's** condition of requiring patrons to come to the library can limit patron's access when they are not able to physically visit the library. This onsite requirement is clearly and firmly stipulated by **STAT-USA** and access through proxy servers is not permitted, even if the library user is authenticated. A meticulous review of each agency's frequently asked questions about database access conditions and provisions is warranted. However, the **Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)** is an option for free database access that many libraries have not fully utilized. For libraries struggling to stay

afloat and meet the needs of their patrons, all options should be explored.

Works Consulted

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@Brunning: People & Technology

At the only Edge that Means Anything / How We Understand What We Do

by **Dennis Brunning** (E Humanities Development Librarian, Arizona State University) <dennis.brunning@gmail.com>

Carpe Librum

The summer of the eBook has ended. How is it that summer brings out the "book" in everyone? Was this summer just a summer love of soft news, wishful thinking? Or was it more?

By conference time, **ATG** readers will know, well more, about what the courts say about **Google** and the settlement with the **Authors Guild Inc.** (the **Writer's Guild** and **Association of American Publishers**).

In case you were elsewhere for this drama, we are at the seventh inning stretch of a publishing world series. At stake: whether **Google** will be the distributor of scanned out of copyright, out of print but in copyright, and in copyright, in print books.

Working with publishers and a dozen or so major libraries, **Google** has scanned, some say, at least seven million books into the search engine. Depending on who holds the rights, these scanned works can be viewed, previewed, or glanced at (**Google** calls these views "snippets"). There is also a "no preview" category which amounts to a bibliographic record, a maybe we'll digitize.

Early in the project, **Author's Guild Inc.**, took **Google** to court about appropriating their intellectual

property. Pre-trial stuff promised to take years to complete, so all parties hammered out an agreement that would define the rules of engagement among the authors, publishers, and **Google**.

News coverage would have that interested parties like libraries and the public were factored into the settlement. **Google**, ever the do no evil and organize all knowledge public interest at heart company cooked up an agreement with the **Authors Guild** to liberate books from library shelves, dusty out of print booksellers, **Salvation Army** two for the price of one bins, and, one can only imagine, books **Google** twins, **Brin** or **Page** had seen, imagined, or wanted when they were young but couldn't access.

Google rolls with energy, resources, and conquer-the-digital-world élan we've never experienced but are now playing outfield to. **Google** has revolutionized "search" and now they are defining "Book."

As librarians, how might we think about all of this?

We need to get our roles right. Any librarian, a minute or two into **Google Book**, can see the value added and the value subtracted to "book" as we understand it. It is really cool to go to **Google Books** and see a random selection of our

world before us. Even the book items appear shelf-aged to perfection.

It is not cool, though, to encounter what is bad — the lousy cataloging, the less-than-helpful search. Worse is the easy to assume but wrong in so many ways that **this is it**.

And it isn't too cool, at least for librarians, to ponder how **Google** got there. They vacuumed up books from partner libraries and all the nooks and crannies of the book world (the copy of **Ferlinghetti's Coney Island of the Mind, New Directions**, 1963 looks familiar — swear the first ex-wife has it now and gave it to **Google**...). Along their way, some cried foul, and **Google** went to court and out of court was settled an agreement that promised incredible access to the printed record in library books.

And it is library books whose access is assured, especially library books in the public domain. Really out of the discussion are in copyright books supplied by libraries and publishers. Yeah, they allow one **Google Book** Access license — one user, one computer — for every library to view the public domain books. There is also an institutional subscriptions model for a library to access public domain and rights cleared titles. Seems very old school licensing at best. At worst, it belies the public good argument **Google** and settlement supporters tout.

Librarians need to be at the negotiations, especially for **Google** as library. All libraries deserve extensive access to more than the

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public domain books. After all, didn't every library that bought a book over all the years of "book" contribute to the record that **Google** scanned? Less grandly, shouldn't "partner libraries" be all of us?

Right now and probably after court decisions or even legislation resulting from federal action or inaction on copyright that no doubt encouraged **Google's** bold end play on copyright, **Google** will emerge with a product that lives up to the rhetoric of the summer of the eBook. **Google** will sell ads, know our book buying habits more than ever, and **Google** will realize revenues in referrals of old fashioned print books.

The more information is free to **Google** users, the more ad revenues they earn. The more Internet users search at **Google**, **Google** gets rich.

"Library" gave **Google** one big step up in "book." "Library" conferred status, value, legitimacy to **Google's** project. Library deserves more than the settlement offers.

Our role is to remind **Google** that it is running a library.

Barnes & Noble eBooks on iPhone

...can I put you on hold...I'm reading...

We have the *New York Times Sunday Book Review* back page on the bulletin board. In large font — **Barnes & Noble's LL Bean** green (hunter's green — for those in the chase for a good read) the venerable bookseller invites us to "eBooks made easy." Neatly arranged against plenty of blank newsprint are four devices — a **PC** screen, a **Mac** screen, a **Blackberry**, and an **iPhone**. Each displays a book cover or in the case of the two computers, cover and text.

A still life that says it all — books, over a variety of popular readers, at the \$9.99 per book price.

Take that **Amazon**. Who needs a **Kindle**?

To put a face on the **B&N iPhone** experience I caught up with a few friends with **iPhones**.

Brad Vogus, Head of Social Sciences and Government Services at **Arizona State University**, is a busy librarian and father of four. He was re-shelving government documents and appeared to be enjoying this solitary if indispensable task. It took **Brad** a nanosecond to get his **iPhone** going; he was already an eBook user.

@Bunning: Brad, how do you like the B&N iPhone/eBook experience?

Brad: Fairly seamless and enjoyable. The actual display of the book is easy to use, and so are the settings. You turn the page with a flip of your finger. Very easy and user friendly. Selection of materials is decent.

One thing that is not seamless is that you can't actually buy a book directly from the app. It pushes you to the **B&N** page on the Web browser on the **iPhone**. After you purchase the book on the Website, it automatically appears on your **iPhone**, although you have to enter a code (your credit card number) to unlock it.

@Bunning: do you think B&N made use of the iPhone features you enjoy and make you an iPhone customer?

Brad: Yes. Using the touch screen to turn pages (swipe to the left), touching the top corner to "dog ear" the page, and the setting menu are all easy to use. Would like an easier way to change the font while I am reading.

Also, just the fact that I can download a book and having it on my **iPhone** is very convenient. Phone, Web browser, **iPod**, and eBook reader in one. Also, it's incredible that I can download a book anywhere without having to find a bookstore. This makes impulse buys super easy! Goodbye money!

@Bunning: Will you buy more B&N eBooks and read them on your iPhone?

Brad: The convenience is hard to beat! I will definitely buy more books this way. Although, I think there is a price point that will occur with me. I really don't want to spend more than \$15 to buy a book in this format. I don't know why.

Also, I have bought eBooks (using the **Kindle** app) that I wish I would have bought in paper, because I wanted to share that book with my wife. If I bought a paper copy, I could give it to her when I was done, and she could read it anytime. Because it is an eBook, she will never get it, because I won't give up my **iPhone** for an extended period of time.

@Bunning: Good luck holding on to your iPhone and your money! Who else among us uses the iPhone?

Brad: Who doesn't? But I know you don't want to leave the building. **Juliann** down in your office — she's a new user and I hear "loving it."

Juliann Couture is a subject librarian for the social sciences at **Hayden Library, Arizona State University Library**. She made the move to the **iPhone** a few months ago and doesn't look back.

@Bunning: What do you think about the Barnes & Noble eBook service on iPhone?

Juliann: I played around with it some recently. The experience was good. The interface is easy to use and only took a minute to figure out.

@Bunning: did B&N make use of iPhone features you enjoy and make you an iPhone customer?

Juliann: The best part of **iPhone** for me is that it is intuitive and the **B&N eBook Reader** fits into that. However, I can't read for a very long time on my **iPhone** — it is too much like a computer screen rather than, say, a **Kindle** screen. Reading an article is a few pages long is one thing but I wouldn't use the **iPhone** to read a book.

@Bunning: Do you feel you will download more books to your iPhone from Barnes and Noble?

Juliann: I probably won't be downloading any in the near future. The **iPhone** just isn't the right device for me to use as an eBook reader.

Our next **iPhone** user works down the road from **ASU**. **David Bickford**, formerly University Librarian for the **University of Phoenix**, and currently VP for Instructional Materials & Technologies at **UoP**, is an avid **iPhone** user and enthusiast.

@Bunning: You like your iPhone Apps. What's your reaction to B&N's?

David: They've done a fine job of optimizing their reader for the **iPhone**. The biggest suggestion I'd have: they should make the font size adjustment an option you can access at any time. Now you have to click into settings in order to find it. Usually the need to adjust font size is something that might arise spontaneously dependent on viewing conditions.

@Bunning: Will you use iPhone in the future for purchasing and reading books?

David: It will depend more on how they price books than the technology. I'm comfortable reading all forms of text on the **iPhone** but I'm reluctant to pay for content that I might find free or inexpensively via the public library or the used book market. Instead of buying eBooks outright, I might prefer a rental model similar to how **Apple** handles movies. Let me rent the book for 30 days for a few dollars. I wouldn't hesitate to do that, but I would hesitate to buy a good for full price.

Back at the library we pondered **Barnes and Noble's eBook on iPhone**. **@Bunning** is stuck in older technology, the less visually smart **Blackberry**. It can't be as good as **iPhone** or can it? More about the **Blackberry B&N eBook Reader** in our next column. 🐼

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Speaking of people who won't be in **Charleston**, **Tony Ferguson** and **Rick Anderson** are not able to come. Other boo hoos! And **Vicky Reich** too! I could go on and on! But next year will be a new year! The **Conference will turn 30** in 2010! www.katina.info/conference

And we will miss our two founding mentors at the **Charleston Conference** this year — **Susan Campbell** <scampbel@ycp.edu> and **Pam Censer** <pam.censer@gmail.com>. Instead of coming to **Charleston** this year, **Pam** and **Susan** decided to celebrate their September birthdays in **Santa Fe**! They had a blast and even sent me a "collaborative" card to remind me that I wasn't there. Oh well. Thanks for the memories, **Pam** and **Susan**! And see you next year in **Charleston**!

Talked to the astute **Jay Askovich** the other day! Did you know that this youthful gentleman has 5 (count them, 5!) **grandchildren**! The oldest is only three years old but he says that he wants to wait til they get a little older to influence them. Not me! My grandson, **Trifon** is nearly two years old and I am influencing him a lot by visiting him in **Savannah**! In fact, **Trifon** was recently the ring bearer in a wedding and he stole the show!

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