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## People Profile: Robert W. Boissy

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The second message that publishers hear from libraries is that local and intermediary services are not a perfect backup because they do not incorporate the publisher host system software; in other words, the libraries are saying that the browse, search, index, and navigation elements of publisher sites are important after all. Why should a library backup publisher content on servers or other media when the content would be cumbersome to use without the associated indexing and platform software? What seems to be wanting is an insurance policy that at least preserves the publisher software in the case of a disaster. Such a policy would allow for an orderly transition for the content onto some other platform. **CLOCKSS** and **Portico** offer their own solutions to this problem; basically, they revert, if necessary, over to their own systems and rely on a combination of the same popular indexing, discovery, and linking services that cover the current publisher content.

### Keeping Tabs on Publishers

With physical collections, library buildings served two purposes: making content available for local use in a pleasant setting, and preserving that content. With digital collections, both those purposes are radically altered. So the question libraries ask themselves is whether it is still their job to safeguard the content. A logical question to ask is whether the content will be adequately preserved if the library chooses to focus elsewhere. This is an important question, but in a kind of distant, theoretical sense. Generally speaking, it appears that there are enough efforts underway and enough responsible parties stepping up to tackle this problem, that the preservation question is answered. Digital copies of published content are being stored in many places, in many countries, and on many different servers. And the same content is being stored in print archives by responsible initiatives. The responsible library task is therefore not necessarily to locally archive content, but to keep track of archiving by publishers and insist on information from publishers about their archiving initiatives. For information on developments in this area, follow the work of the **Piloting an E-Journals Preservation Registry Service (PEPRS)** project at **University of Edinburgh** ([http://edina.ac.uk/projects/peprs\\_summary.html](http://edina.ac.uk/projects/peprs_summary.html)). The most important question for each purchasing library is therefore not whether the record of human publishing and achievement will be preserved perpetually, but whether content will be available to the local library's users.

So what are the potential obstacles to local access to paid content? The most likely is the inability to continue subscribing to content and the consequent possibility of a loss of back access. To safeguard against this outcome, libraries must negotiate into licenses fair clauses assuring back access in the event that the library is unable to pay for some or all of their subscribed content. There is not complete consensus on what is fair in this regard, but one view is that back access to previously paid

*against the grain*  
**people profile**

Manager, Account Development and Strategic Alliances  
Springer Science+Business Media  
233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013  
Phone: (781) 244-7918 • <Robert.Boissy@Springer.Com>  
[www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)

**Robert W. Boissy**

**BORN AND LIVED:** Was born and raised in South Salem, NY, now settled in Plainville, MA.

**EARLY LIFE:** Middlebury College, BA. SUNY Albany, MLS. Syracuse University, Certificate of Advanced Study. Post-Graduate Internship at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** Various training, support, and data exchange roles at a subscription agency for 15 years, and various licensing and marketing roles in STM publishing for 8 years. Former Chair **International Committee for Electronic Data Interchange for Serials (ICEDIS)**, as of June 5th 2011 Vice-President/President-elect of the **North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG)**.

**FAMILY:** Married to wife **Kathy** for 25 years, children **Laura** (20), **Libby** (17), and **James** (15).

**IN MY SPARE TIME:** Reading essays, landscaping, watching amateur and professional soccer.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** Recently, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, and *Cloud Atlas*, both by **David Mitchell**.


**PET PEEVES:** Getting older and slower as the world moves faster and faster.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Summed up nicely by **Bill McKibben** and his 350.org movement. Stewardship of the planet.

**MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** Being elected VP/President-elect of **NASIG** by my peers in the serials community.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** Learn how to travel gracefully and selectively after 25 years of running from place to place.

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** Market forces have been driving many changes to the way scholarship is disseminated, and they will continue to redistribute costs and value as appropriate. Reading on tablets turns out to be fun, but all hardware and all electronic formats are fleeting. The need to preserve resources of all kinds in permanent, trusted storage mechanisms will begin to dominate the landscape in five years. Data mining will be honed to a point where hypothesis generation will be possible. 🌱



content should continue on the publisher server for as long as the library continues to purchase at least some content from the publisher. From this perspective, it is only after the complete severance of a financial relationship that a reasonable "server maintenance" fee should be instituted by the publisher for ongoing access. Since publishers want the most access on their own servers as possible, it is unwise to redirect clients to another provider until absolutely necessary.

Another possible problem can arise when content shifts from one publisher to another. The Transfer Code of Conduct (<http://www.uksg.org/transfer>) addresses this problem. It is a voluntary promise made publicly among sig-

natory publishers to safeguard libraries against loss of access to paid content during the shift of content from one rights holder to another. In general, access to paid content should never be lost because of a shift of content among publishers, but it pays to know which publishers are actually signatories to the Transfer Code. Inconvenience may happen in the form of needing to adjust a pointer or linking service to a different platform, but that is different than complete loss of access under threat of paying twice for the same content. Note that this differs from paying for digital archives of "born print" content, where the associated fees are for the value-added processes of digitization and aggregation.

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