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Springer.com, of course, must reflect up-to-date information on all Springer products, services and activities, and for a variety of audiences (librarians, authors, etc.), but it also hosts functionality, like our free MARC records download tool. So, it too requires constant updates that are driven by feedback, product development, and industry trends.

ATG: Will the eBooks in the Springer Book Archives be available to libraries for direct purchase, or are we talking about licensing the eBooks via an annual subscription fee? Any idea of what the pricing will look like? Will these eBooks be eligible for Springer's "MyCopy" purchase option to buy a print copy?

WvdV: Springer will continue to use the outright purchase model for subject collections, with tiered pricing based on the size and research intensity of the institution. However, we will continue to work with customers to evolve our business models.

And, yes, we are happy to say that MyCopy will be available for English language titles that are suitable for this service — i.e., those under 1,200 pages long.

ATG: Can interested libraries customize a group of individual titles for purchase? Does that fit into the current business model, or is purchase limited to the subject collections?

WvdV: Springer strongly believes in the collection model. Usage statistics prove that on the institution level, a large portion of the collection is being used over time. See for instance the Liverpool studies by Terry Bucknell, that show that after a period of more than three years, the amount of titles in the collection that are being used is still growing.

The search engines and references bring researchers and students to individual chapters of titles, that based on title and main subject area sometimes even did not look of interest for a librarian to choose.

For libraries who need another purchase option, Springer will continue to offer its eBooks, including the archive titles, also through third-party vendors and aggregators.

ATG: As we commit more deeply to this world of eBooks, some librarians are expressing concerns about the impact on one of the staples of library service, interlibrary loan. What arrangements are being made to enable the interlibrary loaning of the eBooks available via SpringerLink?

against the grain

publisher profile

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JK: SBA works will share the same permissive interlibrary loan allowances that our "regular" eBooks already have, including provisions for print and digital loans.

ATG: What "permissive" interlibrary loan allowances are you referring to? Can you be more specific for those of us who are not familiar with current Springer loan provisions?

JK: For libraries in the USA, Springer allows interlibrary loan for single chapters, in compliance with applicable United States and international copyright laws, guidelines, and conventions. These chapters can be downloaded and submitted in print or electronically to non-commercial libraries.

ATG: What is the most effective way to make use of Springer eBook content on mobile devices? Do you have specific recommendations as to which mobile devices are most compatible with your content?

JK: All SBA titles will be available in PDF, which works well on large screen mobile devices and tablets such as iPads. In addition, a limited number of book archive titles will be available in EPUB. Of course, there is also the free SpringerLink app for iPhones and iPads.

ATG: While Springer Book Archives is a mammoth undertaking, we suspect that it is not the only development at Springer that our readers would be interested in. Are there other new products that we should be on the lookout for?

JK: In August, we launched SpringerReference (springerreference.com), a platform with all the latest, published, and forthcoming editions of eReferences (reference works, including encyclopedias, handbooks, dictionaries, bibliographies, and data collections) which

provides constant, peer-reviewed updates, so that these "living" eReferences are up-to-date with the latest scientific discoveries.

ATG: What are the purchasing models for this eReference collection? Can they be purchased to own? Or are they available via subscription or under some licensing agreement?

JK: SpringerReference is available on a separate platform, and can be subscribed to for an annual subscription. At an additional fee, subscribing libraries can obtain the reference works that are published as a completed work in the subscription year. The perpetual access to these reference works will be on SpringerLink.

ATG: We understand that Springer is also offering a number of free value-added Websites.

JK: Yes, in addition to SpringerReference, Springer offers a number of free sites, many introduced recently, that your readers may find useful:

AuthorMapper (www.authormapper.com) is a free interactive tool that visualizes scientific research areas and trends by plotting authors, subjects, and institutions on a world map as well as identifying scientific trends through timeline graphs, statistics, and regions.

A customizable widget is available for it which allows, among other things, for all the authors of an institution to display, for example, on a library's home page.

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