November 2013

People Profile: Maha Kumaran

Editor

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Editor (2005) 'People Profile: Maha Kumaran,' Against the Grain: Vol. 17: Iss. 6, Article 18.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4600

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
they are interested. Other barriers to access for patrons include lack of proper software installed on their home desktop, expired or improperly processed user cards, or lack of knowledge about how to properly access a particular database.

Respondents in our survey indicated that there are still many improvements that can be made to electronic access (see Table 1), and were typically in agreement with the written literature above. The largest concern among this group appears to be the lack of consistency in interfaces between the various publishers. Many felt that a seamless interface for both initial access and searching would be a considerable improvement over the current model. There was also a strong preference for standardization across many areas of electronic journal publishing including linking, controlled vocabularies, search terms, and indexing. It was interesting to note that while most of our respondents from academic libraries were in favor of IP access, special and other small libraries desired the ability to choose an access type based on their needs/budgets and felt that publishers were not being flexible enough. URL and linking problems were number three on the list, and again, many of our respondents called for greater standardization and more stability — stability not only with platforms, links and mode of access, but also stability on the vendors’ part to keep their content in one database and not move them around so often.

The dilemma of ensuring future access to electronic materials continues to challenge information managers, librarians, archivists, and the computer science community. In the meantime, librarians are left wondering whether the electronic books, journals and information on CD, DVD or other storage media will last as long as printed paper or microfiche. Therefore, many continue to have hybrid collections of print and electronic materials just in case an adequate answer to this problem is never found. Many of our respondents commented that lack of permanence and access to archival content were still major barriers to an electronic only library.

Education & Training

The complexities of granting and gaining access to electronic books and journals have also changed the skill sets needed to process and maintain these collections. This is true for both library employees and library users. While library patrons are expected to be information literate and cultivated critical thinkers, most do not need additional education to access the text of a print book or journal (unless, for example, it continued on page 30)