

UKSG Introduction to E-Resources Online Seminar 2025

Come up with two or three priorities and submit via the Padlet below (click on the + sign to add your comments). This will be used to prompt discussion during the e-book round table at the start of day 2. If possible please complete by 12pm BST on Wednesday 25th June . Thank you

Pricing & licensing

↻ Digital Rights Management-free

I would like to see more DRM-free content available, with fewer ebooks that have restricted access, such as those that expire after a certain number of uses or days.

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↻ perpetual access

Changes to perpetual access

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↻ Changes towards subscription models

ProQuest may just be the first of the suppliers to move to a subscription model - what do we do (both as individual libraries and as a sector) if this is more widespread?

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↻ Pricing

This is a big issue for us at the moment and we may be forced to cut our subscriptions.

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↻ Licence Reviews

What to look out for when reviewing a licence agreement? What agreement information to record (and strategies for recording this data)?

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↻ High costs of Law textbooks and monographs

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↻ Lack of uniformity within the eBook market

Differences between publishers regarding pricing and access, a.k.a. worst offenders

mean certain areas of knowledge more affected than others, i.e. Business, Health.

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⇌ **Price Increases**

How to manage price increases above 5%

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⇌ **Costs**

How can we provide all required resources with sustainable costs

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⇌ **High costs for unlimited access and DRM-free**

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⇌ **Freedom to choose**

We see a trend from some publishers to move towards selling book packages or in specific platforms, and formats. Ideally we would like to continue to be able to purchase single books, DRM free and unlimited users

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⇌ **Textbooks**

Textbooks at a reasonable price

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⇌ **libraries collaborations**

Work together to get better deals, for example to explore the possibility of shared resources like expensive encyclopedias

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⇌ **With tightening budgets**

With tightening budgets and other pulls on library financial resources - pricing and the opportunity cost of going/not going for a subscription / deal is important.

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⇌ **E-textbook models**

E-textbook models are high in cost, have limited suppliers who blame the costs on

publishers, but then the publishers attribute the costs to suppliers, and unlike other subscription services like e-journals, don't provide any room for a post-cancellation access scenario with textbooks.

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↩ **Licences**

I would like to see a ban on one user licences as they are pretty useless

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Accessibility & user experience

↩ **Meeting WCAG 2.2 standards & show an awareness of the European Accessibility Act (EAA)**

Having a VPAT/roadmap available and being transparent.

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Determined Emu 6/24/25 12:45PM

I agree this with - would be interested to hear more about how the EAA might impact HE Libraries and what we should be aware of.

↩ **Platform uniformity**

Some platforms just offer a better UX than others do - it would be good to see publishers/aggregators investing in improving platform utility and performance.

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↩ **Ensuring smooth access**

Some resources have very convoluted methods to access or require multiple hoops to jump through that do not function well with an LMS or discovery layer

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↩ **The increasing ubiquity of AI**

A lot of different suppliers and platforms are introducing AI features, and I know at my organisation we have been cautioning students against using AI as much as possible, and then on the platforms we use there will be an AI bot which we don't necessarily want.

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↩ **Licences**

more unlimited licenses so that we can better accommodate reading lists.

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⇒ Better in built screen readers for accessibility

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⇒ **Pricing & Perpetual Access**

This is a particular issue with text books that seem to be an opportunity for publishers to print money. They even decide what is a text book!

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Discovery & metadata

⇒ **The importance of a metadata team**

Metadata roles seem to not be given enough attention generally. This is a problem for institutions with shared systems, as records become overwritten with new acquisitions, and the work done by some becomes erased. Prioritising metadata quality enhances discoverability, usage, and user experience. It also supports resources and systems librarians. There are too many institutions with not enough - or not at all - people looking after metadata.

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⇒ **Metadata**

Quality of metadata, sometimes needs a lot if editing

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⇒ **Supplied Metadata**

Continue to liaise with vendors to ensure that the quality of metadata we receive for eTextbooks meets our standards.

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⇒ **Improving Metadata**

Continue to explore innovative ways using MarcEdit to improve metadata en masse for vendor supplied eBook package records; and taking advantage of the 'task list' feature within MarcEdit.

Increase usage for students

Our university is committed to advancing digital literacy and sustainability by prioritising the use of e-books. We aim to increase student engagement with electronic resources, encouraging the adoption of e-books as the preferred option over print materials whenever possible

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Boosting engagement with e-resources

As students increasingly rely on AI tools that may lead them to non-peer-reviewed or unreliable content we are looking for ways to increase engagement with our resources. Usage of some resources remains low, which may indicate that students are simply unaware of their availability. How can we make our resources more visible and appealing to students?

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Boost awareness and engagement with e-resources and book titles

It can be challenging to engage academics to update and utilise software such as reading lists to their fullest extend, as well as then actually get students to engage with their reading lists once they have been created. How can we best promote these services to not only get the best value for money from our purchases, but also to ensure that the materials we buy are visible and accessible?

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AI permissions in licences

AI isn't going away - it's too late for that. But some publishers aren't thinking ahead. A blanket "No" to text and data mining isn't the solution. A certain percentage, maybe?

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Engagement in eResources

With engagement in courses dropping and pressures on budgets we're looking at how hard our resources are working and liaising with colleagues on how long a resource needs to be active before we see a return on investment.

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⇒ **Resilience**

Electronic resources are vulnerable not only to simple infrastructure issues but also to more complex problems like cyberattacks - how can we ensure access to resources that can be taken out of commission so easily?

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⇒ **Monographs and open access.**

The criteria was pulled from last REF after consultation - but very likely to be included in the next. UKRI long-form policy has begun - an expansion could be very costly, especially for those Dept/Divs with smaller budgets for such OA costs (HUMS)

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⇒ **Improving user experience or UX. As a recent student, I found it very frustrating to access our library resources without a clear user journey. Buttons are sometimes hidden, or difficult to customise. Hence, a flexible UX (which feeds into accessibility), could be a good approach. Consistency across board would be useful too.**

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⇒ **Authentication & Spreadsheets**

It took me awhile to get my head around authentication and I still get stuck on this sometimes. I also didn't realise how many spreadsheets I'd end up with/using either before I came into this E-Resources role!

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