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Title

Ebook Reading on the Move: UC Davis launches Palace Ebook Pilot

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Authors

Polchow, Michelle

Brantley, Peter

English, James

et al.

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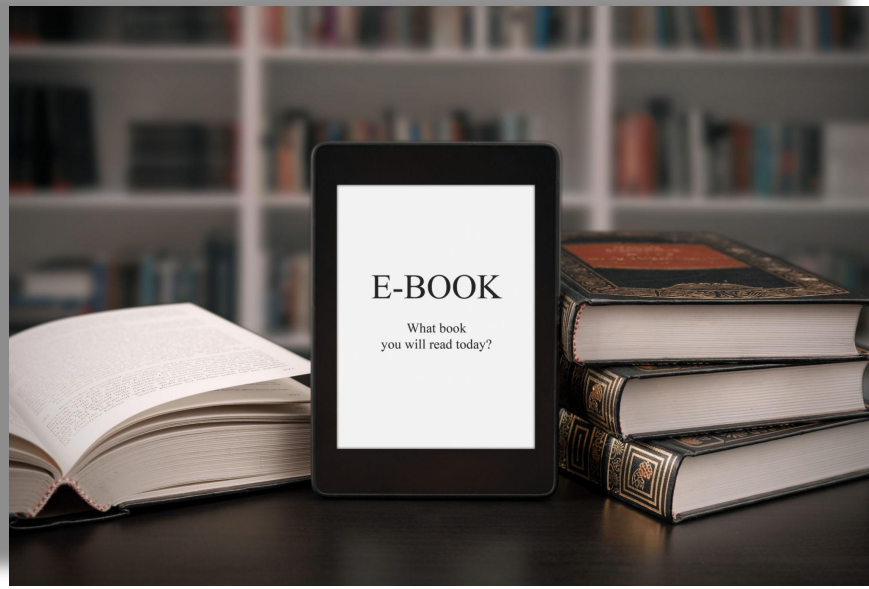
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Ebook Reading on the Move: UC Davis Launches Palace Ebook Reader Pilot

UC Libraries Forum, October 22, 2025

Speakers:

- Peter Brantley,
Director, Online Strategy, University of California, Davis
- James English
Director Business Development, LYRASIS
- Michelle Polchow
Electronic Resources Librarian, University of California, Davis
- Nancy Lin
Senior Data Projects Strategist, NYU Libraries, New York, NY
- Bob Heyer-Gray
Head of Collection Strategies, University of California, Davis



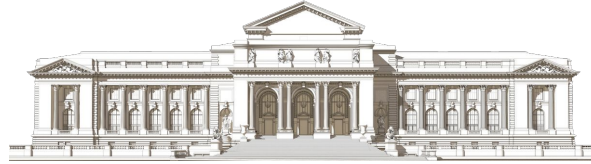
Ebook Reading in Academia

Peter Brantley
Director, Online Strategy
University of California, Davis Library





In the City ...



- Palace arose at NYPL
 - Public and research library with strong software dev group
 - Very complex, large many branch system with many users
 - SimplyE (mobile app) and Library Simplified (management)
- Effort to mediate for readers vs. platform heterogeneity
 - Remedies passthru for authentication and “secret tokens”
 - Improved a very frustrating experience for readers
 - First steps towards retrieving content from publishers

Academics in the Palace

- Starting from a hard place:
 - Dark warren of reading platforms
 - Common, useful UX is a fantasy dream
 - Discovery difficult to integrate in library systems
 - License limitations opaque and pernicious
- And our uses are difficult to solve for:
 - Intensive reading more likely to involve deeper interaction
 - Annotation, text extraction, textual analysis, deep search
 - Palace itself primarily trade by dint of history
 - But we like scifi/fantasy/romance too!



Palace as a (Partial) Solution

- We (UC) think Palace is good step in the right direction
 - Currently working closely with NYU, Columbia Univ. as partners
 - Cornell and others also beginning to join
 - Working to create a shared vision of Academic Palace
- UC Davis piloting for UC system investigation
 - Working with content across UC licensing tiers
 - Not trying to be exhaustive – too much work for now!
 - Highlighting class use (syllabi) texts, UC Press, audio
 - Next: user assessment of the finding, getting, reading



Cooking with Palace

- Davis producing a “Cookbook” from our experience
 - For all academic Palace Implementers –
- Documents process and includes:
 - List of reqs for staffing and resource needs
 - “Do you where your children books are?”
 - “You might want to think about ...” issues
 - Hopefully, forthcoming in public draft Spring 2026
 - May contain some UC-isms but open to refinement
 - Community effort!

Academic Barriers

- Organizational challenges for implementing Palace:
 - UC would like customizable consortial support
 - How best to leverage CDL vs campus resources?
 - Support for sub-university level (college, depts)?
- Many barriers in maxing reach of technology
 - UC License Tiers - solution and curse
 - How to support across the State: CSU? CCC?
 - Rough spots in our past licensing agreements!



Academic Desiderata

- Much yet to want:
 - Integrated reading across web/mobile
 - Deep search across titles with conditionals
 - Better integrations, e.g.:
 - Student use from within their LMS
 - Is there a path forward for E- ILL?
- AI Stuff:
 - Integrations with RAG tools
 - Possibly external MCP servers
 - E.g. look something up in Wikipedia within a text



Working on the vision

- Support Lyrasis to build an alternative ebook system!
- Explore fundraising through shared grant efforts
- Maybe software co-development opportunities?
- Encourage partnerships with content providers!
- Work on standards development together!
 - E.g. readium.slack.com



Lyrasis: Supporting Libraries

James English

Director of Business Development for Ebooks and Community Engagement

Lyrasis





Lyrasis | EBCE Academic Library Solutions

Community owned infrastructure for seamless access to
digital resources



biblioboard



The
Palace
Project



Indie Author
Project

Ebooks & Community Engagement

A division of  Lyrasis



**Integrated Seamless Access to Academic
Collections & Trade Content Services**

EBCE Academic Library Solution



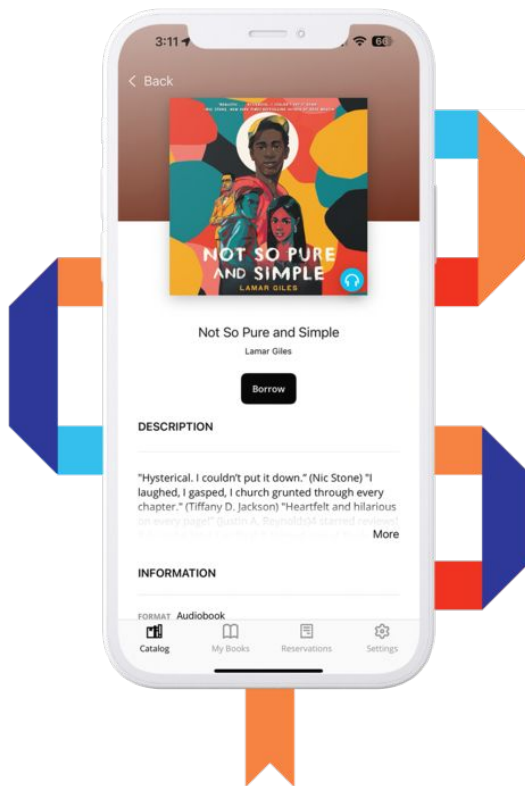
Provider integrations - One Simple App.

Access more of your library's ebooks and audiobooks online and offline



Open Access & Licensed Collections

Regardless of license type, users access content the same



Content Hosting & Web Access

Palace allows libraries to tailor discovery and access to their owned collections to preserve access



Accessibility & Ease-of-Use

Streamlined, user-centered design with a focus on accessibility

Two ways to support Academic Libraries

1. Academic Libraries providing **Leisure reading service**

Attributes

- i. Colleges & Universities
- ii. Use of VLC (domain email based library cards vs SAML Authentication)
- iii. Bundled collections (manga, comics, fiction, Indie Author Project)
- iv. Ebooks & Audiobooks, Magazines (coming soon)

2. Academic Libraries providing providing **seamless access to digital collection services**

Attributes

- i. Universities & Colleges
- ii. Use of SAML
- iii. Metadata & Discovery Integration
- iv. Academic Collection Subscriptions & Purchases
- v. Ebooks, Digitized Publications, Open Access Publications, OER Periodicals



Web Access & Collection Hosting

Modern CMS SaaS by Lyrasis

- Over 60 University Presses
- Simultaneous use, non DRM
- Multimedia Web Reader, Palace Mobile Integration
- 150GB Storage
- Local Custom Submission Pages
- Discovery Collections
- **Palace Bookshelf**
(Public Domain)
- **Lyrasis Open Research Library**
(Academic OA)



Mobile Service & Collection Integration

Direct from Provider

- Proquest
- Overdrive, Boundless (B&T), Cloud Library (OCLC)
- Unlimited Listens / Book Bridge
- **Palace Marketplace**
- **Biblioboard CMS**
- Blackstone Unlimited
- Integrated Open Access Collections
 - Fulcrum
 - OAPEN
 - Pressbooks
 - UPLOpen (DeGruyter)

Getting digital content into a “Catalog” depends...



ILS: Traditional system for managing cataloging, circulation, and patron data; usually locally hosted.

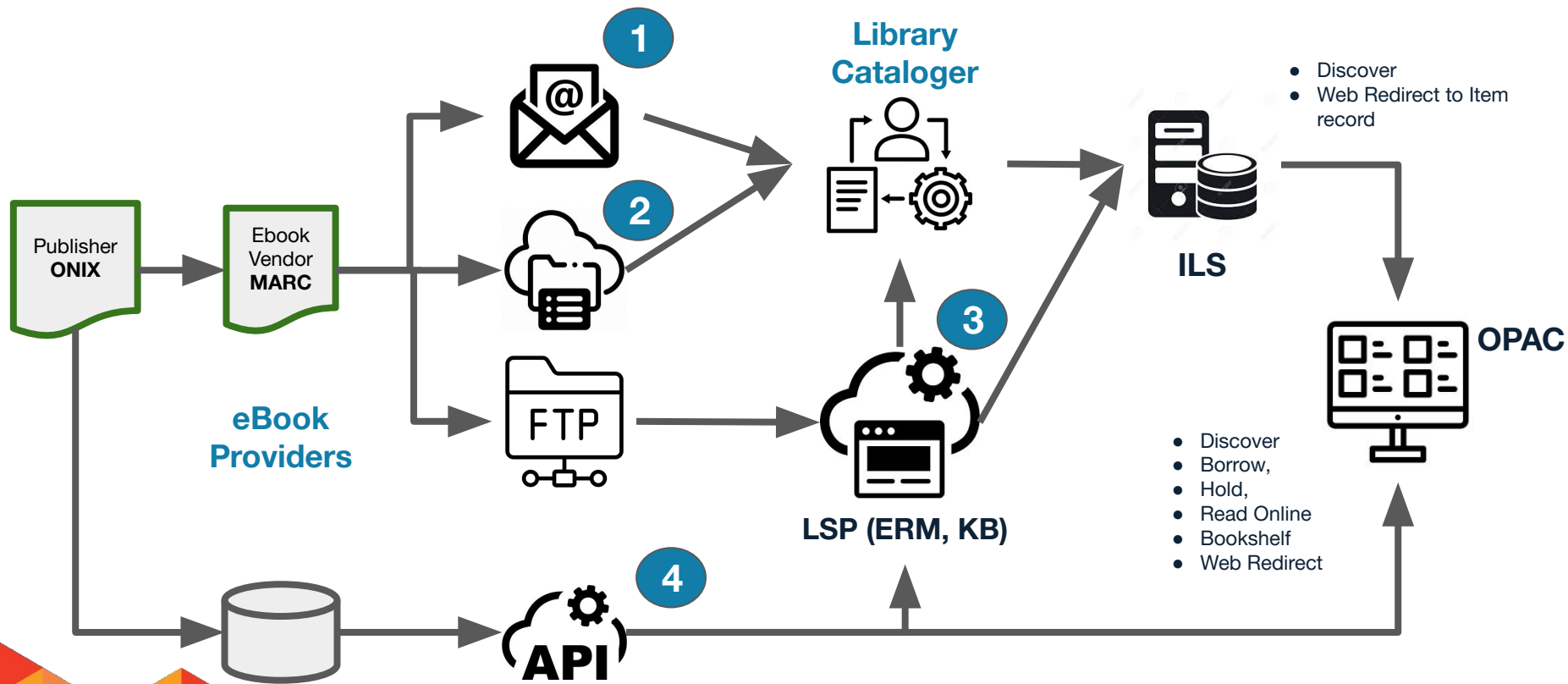


LSP: Cloud-based, modern platform supporting both print and digital resources with better integration and analytics. Augments ILS



OPAC: Public search interface for users to discover and access library materials; part of an ILS or LSP. Augments an ILS.

Current workflows & integration paths...a twisted path



But what if there was something better?

“*Open Publication Distribution System (OPDS)* is an **open standard format used to syndicate electronic publications.**

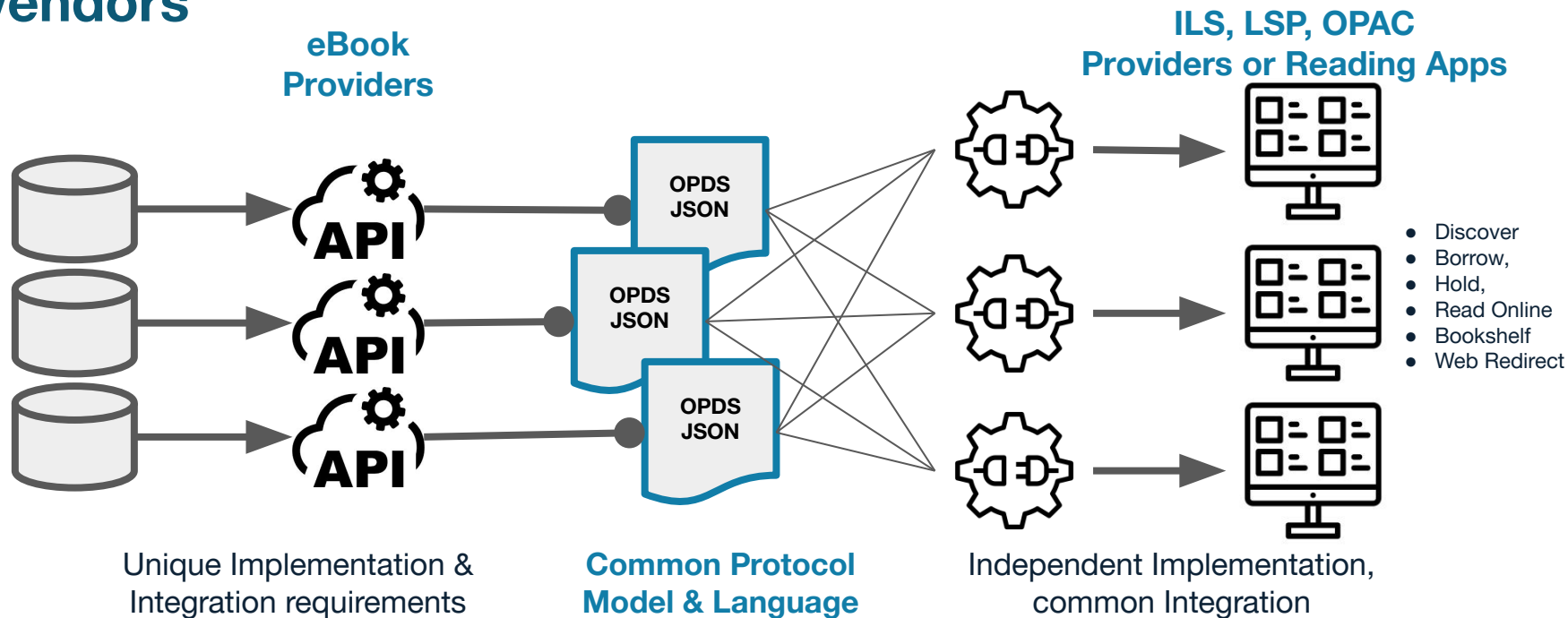
Allows for **easy discovery**, aggregation, and access to digital books through a **simple catalog format...** “

Essentially, it's a way to distribute digital content like ebooks across different platforms in a standardized manner

Credit: Google AI



OPDS provides a common *simple* protocol allowing Catalogs to use a common implementation across content vendors



Can OPDS Support more than just ebooks? Yes!

It highly extensible - serving a breadth of publication types, access modes, & levels of publication complexity, service provider features

- OPDS is **publication agnostic** and designed for **digital content**
 - It can support **different media types**:: video, text, audio, image. web
 - It can represent **different publications types**: Periodicals, monographs (books), albums, tracks, articles (see schema.org taxonomies)
 - It can represent **different publication relationship & organization**: Series, Volumes & Issues, Collections
- OPDS supports different **modes of access** - streamed or packaged, aka online or offline
- OPDS supports **Access Control, DRM and Non-DRM** transaction and content links
- OPDS provides **accessibility** metadata about a publication
- OPDS provides **license information & availability** information for a publication
- OPDS provides **link objects** to endpoints and other data:
 - **At the document level**: authentication & authorization, reporting, tokenized access, other OPDS collections
 - **At the publication level**: DRM endpoints, content, images, other OPDS files of related publications

Who is using OPDS

Content Providers

Today

- DeMarque/Cantook station (CAN & EU)
- Place Marketplace (OPDS+ODL)
- BiblioBoard (hosted & syndicated with OPDS)
 - Blackstone Unlimited
 - IAP & Trade Press Discovery Collections
 - Open Research Library, DeGruyter & UPresses
- BookBridge (OPDS & OPDS+ODL)
- ProQuest, Caselini Torosa, Taylor & Francis (OPDS)
- OAPEN, Open Edition, Internet Archive, UnGlue.it, Gutenberg, Standard Ebooks, UPLOpen, Pressbooks (OPDS)

Research & Development

- Researching - Springer Nature, Cambridge UP, DeGruyter/Routledge- investigation
- Implementing - eMags, Magzter - development (OPDS)

Discovery Apps & OPACS

Today

- SimplyE & Palace
- Cantook Station
- Thorium Desktop
- Aspen Discovery & LiDA
- Solus Discovery

Research & Development

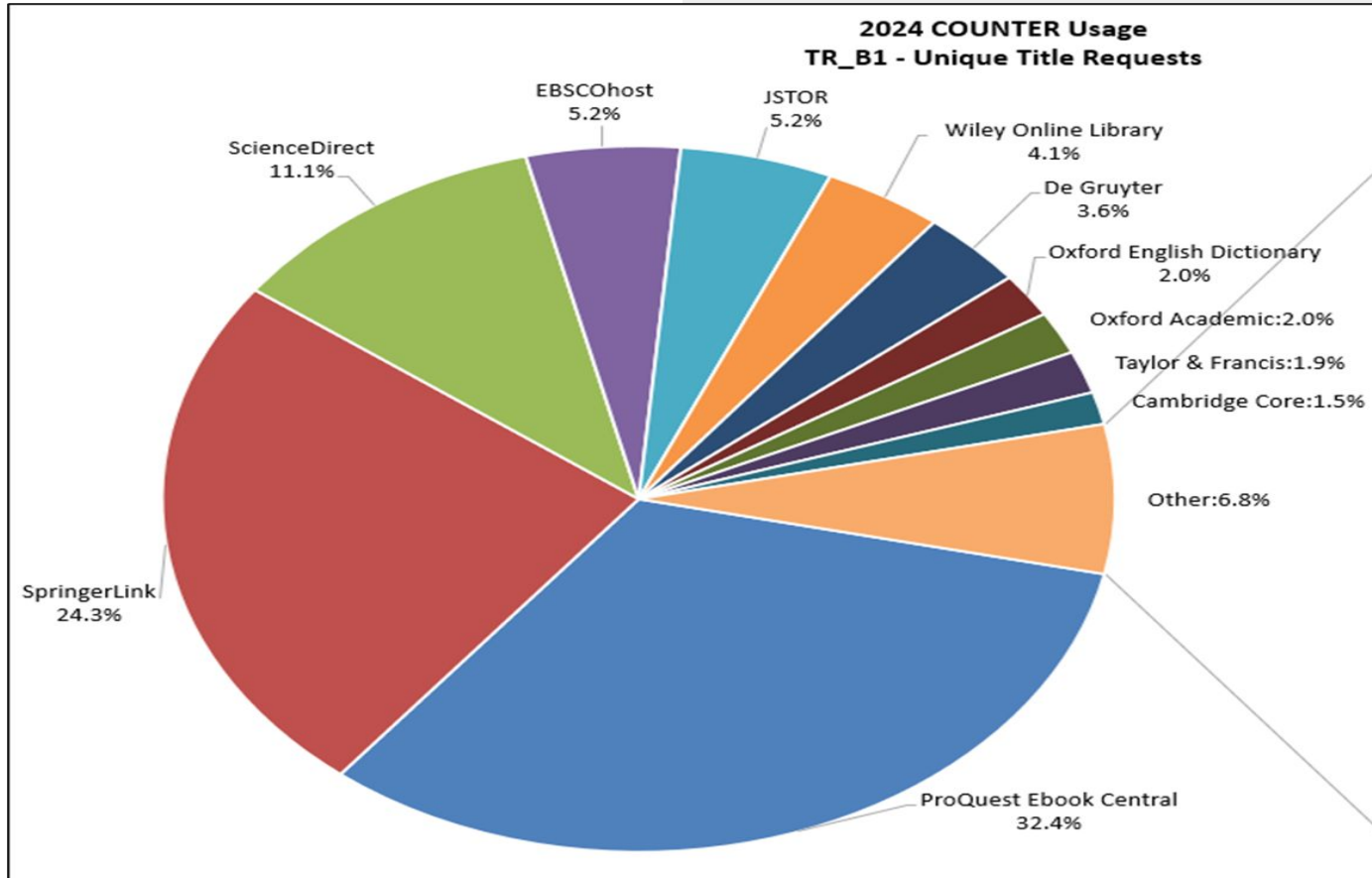
- BiblioCommons - Development
- SirsiDynix - Investigation

Content and Collections Identification

Michelle Polchow
Electronic Resources Librarian
University of California, Davis Library



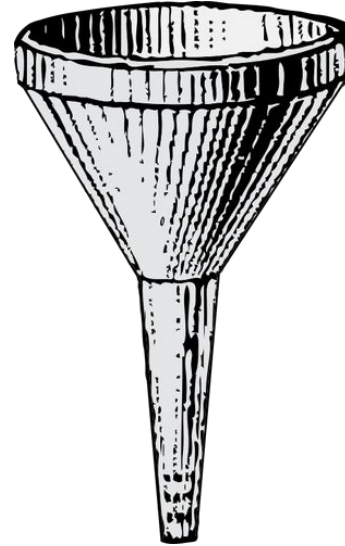
Overview: UC Davis Ebook Collection



Selecting Licensed Content for the Pilot Project

ProQuest Ebook Central

- 1-User
- 3-User (simultaneous access)
- Non-Linear (a 325-loan-day-per-year system)
- Unlimited user
- Subscribed packages:
 - Ebook Central Academic Complete
 - Ebook Central University Press

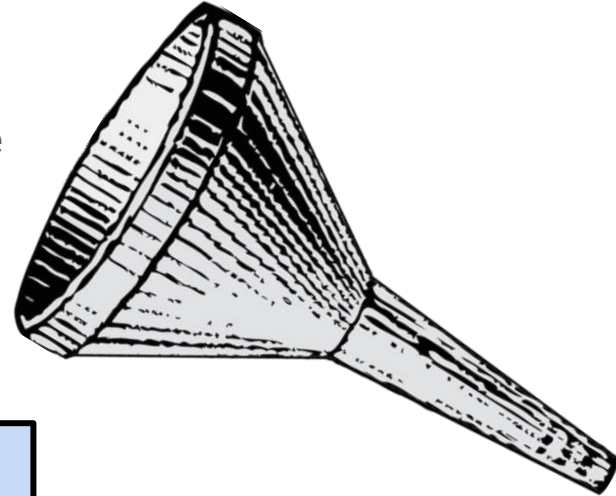


SpringerNature - excluded from pilot given complexity to develop feed

Licensed Content matching Palace Project criteria

ProQuest Ebook Central

- Unlimited user
- Subscribed packages:
 - Ebook Central Academic Complete
 - Ebook Central University Press



Palace E-Reader does not accommodate user metering capabilities.

Palace: Link added to Library Catalog

The screenshot shows the UC Davis Library Search interface. At the top is the 'UC LIBRARY SEARCH' header with a search bar containing the text 'Search anything'. Below the header, the search results for the book 'Plagues and epidemics : infected spaces past and present' by Herring, Ann, 1951- editor; Swedlund, Alan C., editor, 2010 are displayed. The book cover is shown on the left. To the right of the cover, the title and authors are listed, followed by the year '2010'. Below this, a green link 'Available Online >' is visible. A sidebar on the left contains links for 'TOP', 'SEND TO', 'RELATED RESOURCES', 'VIEW ONLINE', 'HOW TO GET IT', 'DETAILS', and 'VIRTUAL BROWSE'. The 'SEND TO' section includes icons for 'EXPORT TO EXCEL', 'EXPORT BIBTEX', 'EXPORT RIS', 'REFWORKS', 'PERMALINK', 'EASYBIB', 'CITATION', 'PRINT', 'ENDNOTE', and 'EMAIL'. The 'VIRTUAL BROWSE' section shows 'Related resources' and a link to 'Display Source Record >'. Below this, the 'View Online' section is expanded, showing 'Full text availability' with two options: 'Ebook Central Academic Complete' (with a note 'Access restricted to UCD IP addresses.') and 'Palace App (read this ebook on your phone or tablet)'. A blue arrow points from the text 'Or via the Palace mobile app' in the adjacent grey box to the 'Palace App' link.

UC LIBRARY SEARCH

Search anything

BOOK
Plagues and epidemics : infected spaces past and present
Herring, Ann, 1951- editor; Swedlund, Alan C., editor.
2010
[Available Online >](#)

TOP

SEND TO

RELATED RESOURCES

VIEW ONLINE

HOW TO GET IT

DETAILS

VIRTUAL BROWSE

Send to

EXPORT TO EXCEL

EXPORT BIBTEX

EXPORT RIS

REFWORKS

PERMALINK

EASYBIB

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EMAIL

Related resources

[Display Source Record >](#)

View Online

Full text availability

[Ebook Central Academic Complete](#)
Access restricted to UCD IP addresses. [SHOW LICENSE](#) ☒

[Palace App \(read this ebook on your phone or tablet\)](#)
Read this ebook on your phone or tablet ☒

UC Davis users will discover Palace ebooks via a link in the library catalog –

Or via the Palace mobile app

Palace: Link added to Library Catalog

View Online

Full text availability

[Ebook Central Academic Complete](#)

 Access restricted to UCD IP addresses.

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[Palace App \(read this ebook on your phone or tablet\)](#)

 Read this ebook on your phone or tablet



Alma - electronic resources management system

Primo - integrated library system

Two access points. Palace App has added notes.

Catalog Record to Web Browser - Browse Only

<https://patron-academic.thepalaceproject.org/ucdavis>



HelpUniversity of California, Davis Library HomeMy BooksSign In

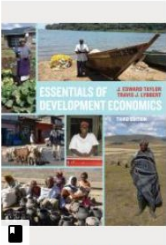
Enter an author, keyword, etc...Search

All Books / University of California, Davis Library

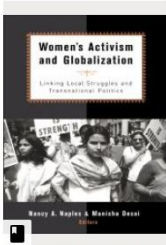
University of California, Davis Library Home

UCD SUM2025 Coursebooks

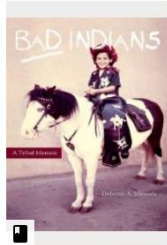
See More >



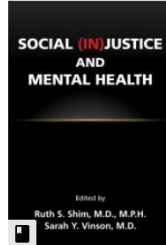
Essentials of Development Economics, Third...
Lybbert, Travis J., Taylor, J. Edward



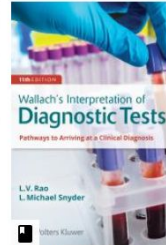
Women's Activism and Globalization : Linki...
Naples, Nancy A., Desai, Manisha



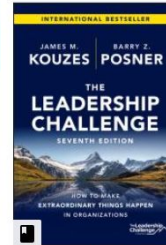
Bad Indians : A Tribal Memoir
Miranda, Deborah A.



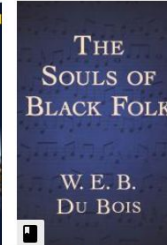
SOCIAL (IN)JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH
Edited by
Ruth S. Shim, M.D., M.P.H., Sarah Y. Vinson, M.D.



Wallach's Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests...
Snyder, L. Michael



THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE
SEVENTH EDITION
JAMES M. KOUZES | BARRY Z. POSNER



THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK
W. E. B. DU BOIS



The Social Determinants of Mental Health
Shim, Ruth S., Compton, Michael T.

See All UCD SUM2025 Coursebooks

Popular Titles

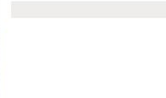
See More >



















Palace App on a mobile devices: borrow this book



Plagues and Epidemics : Infected Spaces Past and Present

by Herring, D. Ann, Swedlund, Alan C.

■ eBook

■ Available to borrow

Borrow this book



Summary

Until recently, plagues were thought to belong in the ancient past. Now there are deep worries about global pandemics. This book presents views from anthropology about this much publicized and complex problem.

Publisher: Taylor & Francis Group

Published: April 1, 2010

Categories: Nonfiction, Social Sciences, Art, Science, Adult



Download Palace



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by Herring, D. Ann, Swedlund, Alan C.

■ eBook

■ Ready to Read in Palace!



Summary

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Download Palace

Selecting Open Access Content for the Pilot Project

UC-SILS Open Access Resource Management Project

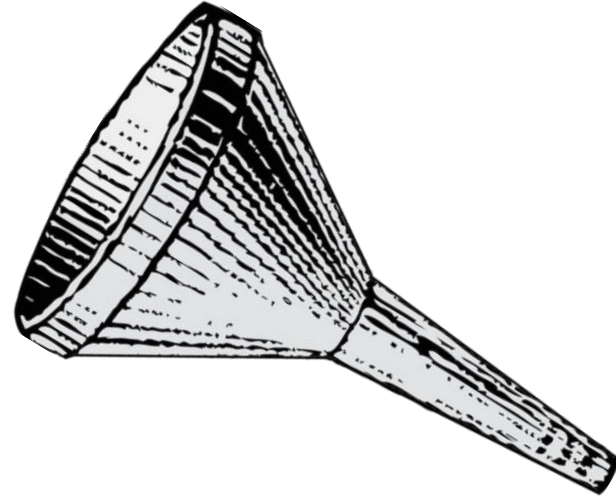
- Charge: June 2021
- Recommendations: March 2022
 - OA resources deemed to be of sufficient value to include in discovery tools at any one campus will be deemed good enough for all campuses.
 - OA resources selected by one campus should be made available for the discovery tools of all campuses.
 - Policies, practices, and methods of communication for OA resource management should be developed with attention to efficiency and de-duplication of effort across campuses.

ALMA - add open access using Network Zone to serve the consortia



OAPEN Foundation (OAPEN) is an independent, not-for-profit Dutch foundation registered at the National Library in The Hague.

Provides seamless access to a curated and fast-growing collection of thousands of peer reviewed OA books

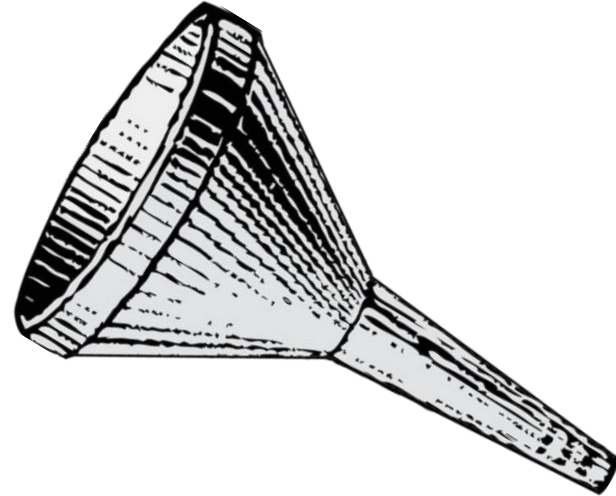




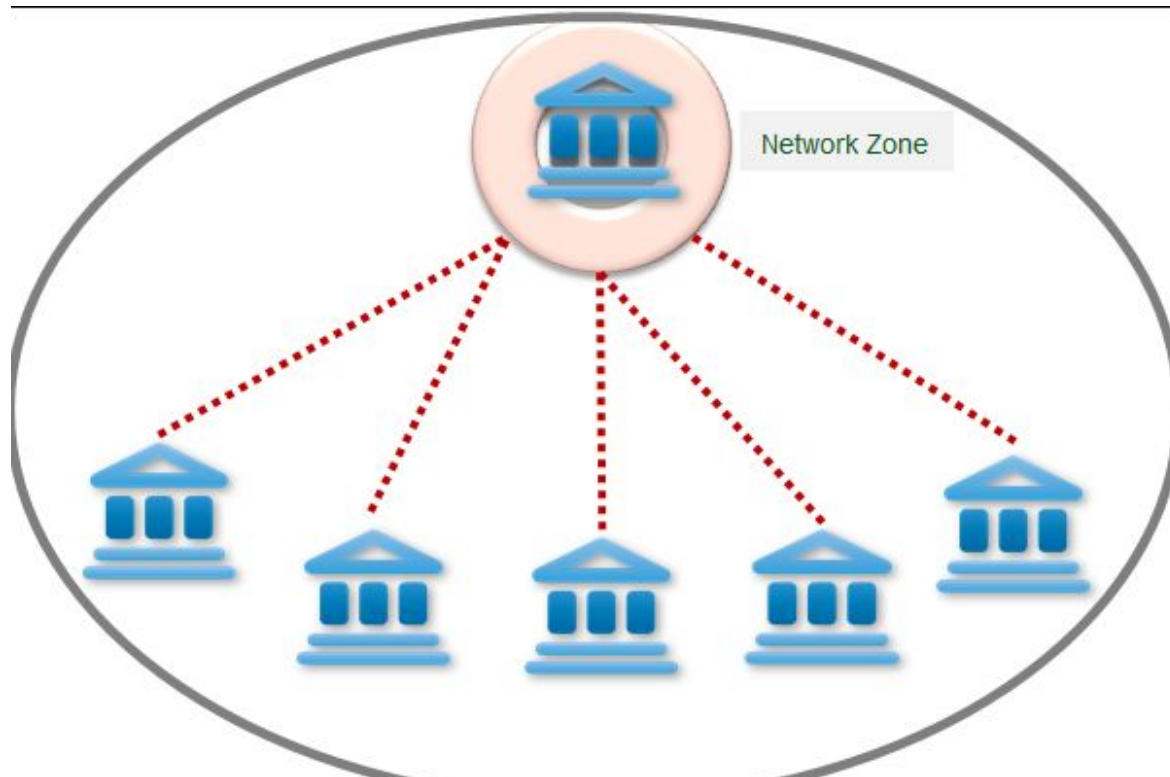
Knowledge Unlatched, originally established in 2012 by a British not-for-profit Community Interest Company.

KU Open Access service provider is through a crowdfunding model as well as financial funding of partnerships.

OAPEN is their partner for hosting and disseminating a variety of Open Access books.



Content: Palace Ebook Reader in Academic Consortia



Using Ex Libris ALMA - Network Zone shares a collection with the consortia

User Impact

The Palace Project App



ProQuest Ebook
Central



SpringerNature



Elsevier



Adobe Reader



Future: One App for All

Proof of concept: Open Data and Innovative Partnerships

California State Library

- Launched California's Bookshelf, March 2025
- Statewide, virtual collection
- More than 300,000 ebooks and audiobooks
- Palace uses geofencing technology, meaning users must be in California while accessing the digital library

UC Davis Palace Pilot - One App

- Proprietary subscriptions
- Open Access
- Consortia Network
- State Library



NYU Lessons Learned and Next Steps

- Starting to move beyond proof of concept
 - Taylor & Francis publisher's OPDS feeds going into production in December 2025
- Priority projects at NYU that might use parts of this ebook infrastructure
 - Whole book EILL pilot
 - Music Score acquisitions and sharing
 - At Risk Videos, local preservation and local viewing
- Key features:
 - Not duplicating a repository of files but using open standards to integrate, get files as needed.
 - Allows users to use resources beyond the publisher's site, publishers providing OPDS feeds
 - Open, non-proprietary standards for DRM (LCP), e-reader, and holdings feed (OPDS)
 - NOT relying only on Alma or one proprietary ecosystem
- In conclusion: Palace App development has helped to pave the way to support our priorities



Next Steps

When
Licensing
Ebooks
consider these
questions:

- Will provider let other systems directly link to ebooks?
- Can users download the full book?
- Can they only read on vendor platform?
- Is book only chunked by chapter?
- Will they provide links to download book files?
- Which format? PDF and/or EPUB?
- Are they providing OPDS metadata feed?
- Are accessibility standards followed in EPUB and PDF?
- Are covers available via http links?

Questions & Answers

Robert Heyer-Gray
Head of Collection Strategies
Collection Strategist, Physical Sciences and Engineering
University of California, Davis Library

