



# Mapping the Treasures: Free eBook Collections

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# Session Outline

Role of ebooks @ RRU Library

Free ebook collections

Free ebooks at other libraries: Survey results

Free ebooks @ RRU Library

Questions and discussion

# Royal Roads University

- ☞ The RRU distributed learning model
  - Primarily graduate programs
  - On campus residencies combined with distance education
- ☞ Services to learners at a distance
  - Immediate access
- ☞ Training and promotion of ebooks
  - Searchable
- ☞ Print and electronic collections and budget
- ☞ Integration of ebook MARC records into library catalogue
- ☞ Limited systems support

# ebook format

- ☞ Usability - netLibrary collection vs. ebrary collection
  - survey of our learners
- ☞ 5 different interfaces
- ☞ username/pswd set up
- ☞ plug-ins and connection speed
- ☞ save shelf space and no fines
- ☞ usage stats

# ebooks @ RRU

Subscription ebook collections at RRU (since April 2000):

- ☛ Netlibrary (3657)
- ☛ ITK (defunct)
- ☛ ebrary (19,000)
- ☛ CRC Press enviroNETbase (144)
- ☛ Dekker Encyclopedias (3)
- ☛ GALE Virtual Reference Library (11)

total = ~ 23,000 titles

# What about free ebook collections?

## What is out there in free ebook land?

? ? ?

- **What?** Non-fiction vs. fiction (public domain)
- **Who?** Publisher vs. volunteer vs. academic
- **How?** Scanning vs. transcribing vs. born digital

# Free ebook collections

**Project Gutenberg**

<http://www.gutenberg.org/>

**15,000 free ebooks**

**eScholarship Editions**

<http://texts.cdlib.org/escholarship/>

**National Academies Press (NAP)**

<http://www.nap.edu/>

**International Children's Digital Library**

<http://www.icdlbooks.org/>

American Urban Architecture - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media

Address http://texts.cdlib.org:8080/ctf/view?docId=ft5t4-4006v56query= Go Links

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**American Urban Architecture**

[Acknowledgments](#)  
[Credits for Illustrations](#)  
[Preface](#)

1— [Urban Design Theory, E](#)  
 2— [Urban Design Practice](#)  
 3— [The Concept of Urban C](#)  
 4— [Catalysts in Action](#)  
 5— [The Emerging Character](#)

[Afterword](#)  
[Notes](#)  
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[Collapse All](#) | [Expand All](#)



**American Urban Architecture**

*Catalysts in the Design of Cities*

Wayne Attoe and Donn Logan

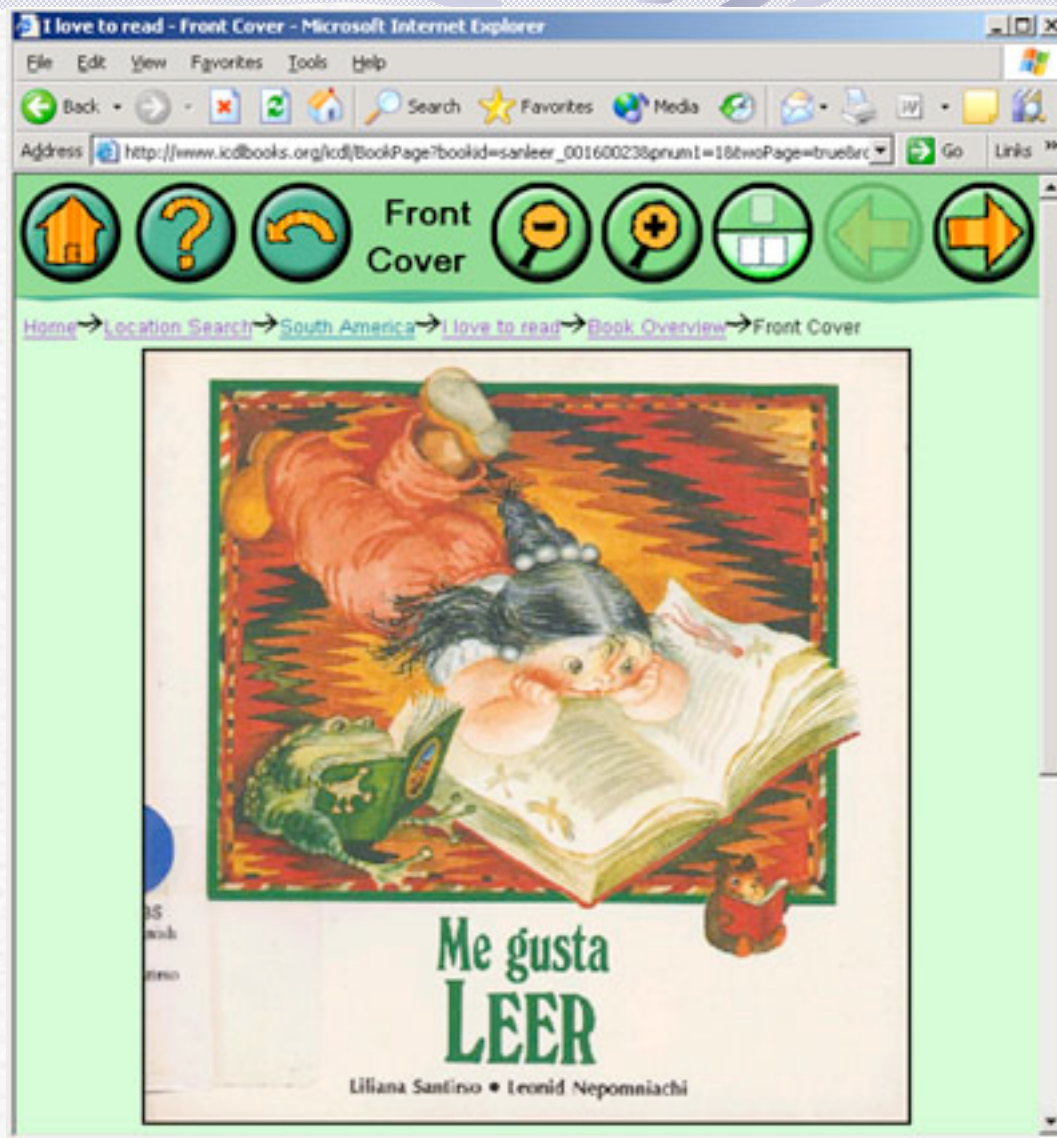
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

Berkeley - Los Angeles - Oxford

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Preferred Citation: Attoe, Wayne, and Donn







How can we integrate these  
resources into our collections?

# MARC for free ebooks?

- ☛ **OCLC netlibrary**  
<http://netlibrary.com/WhatsAvailable.aspx>  
MARC
- ☛ **Project Gutenberg**  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/feeds/>  
RDF/XML/DC  
<http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=05/01/02/1837201>  
MARC
- ☛ **eScholarship Editions (California Digital Library)**  
[http://texts.cdlib.org/escholarship/titles\\_public.html](http://texts.cdlib.org/escholarship/titles_public.html)  
DC; OAI
- ☛ **National Academies Press**  
<http://iris.nas.edu>  
MARC; DC

# What to do?

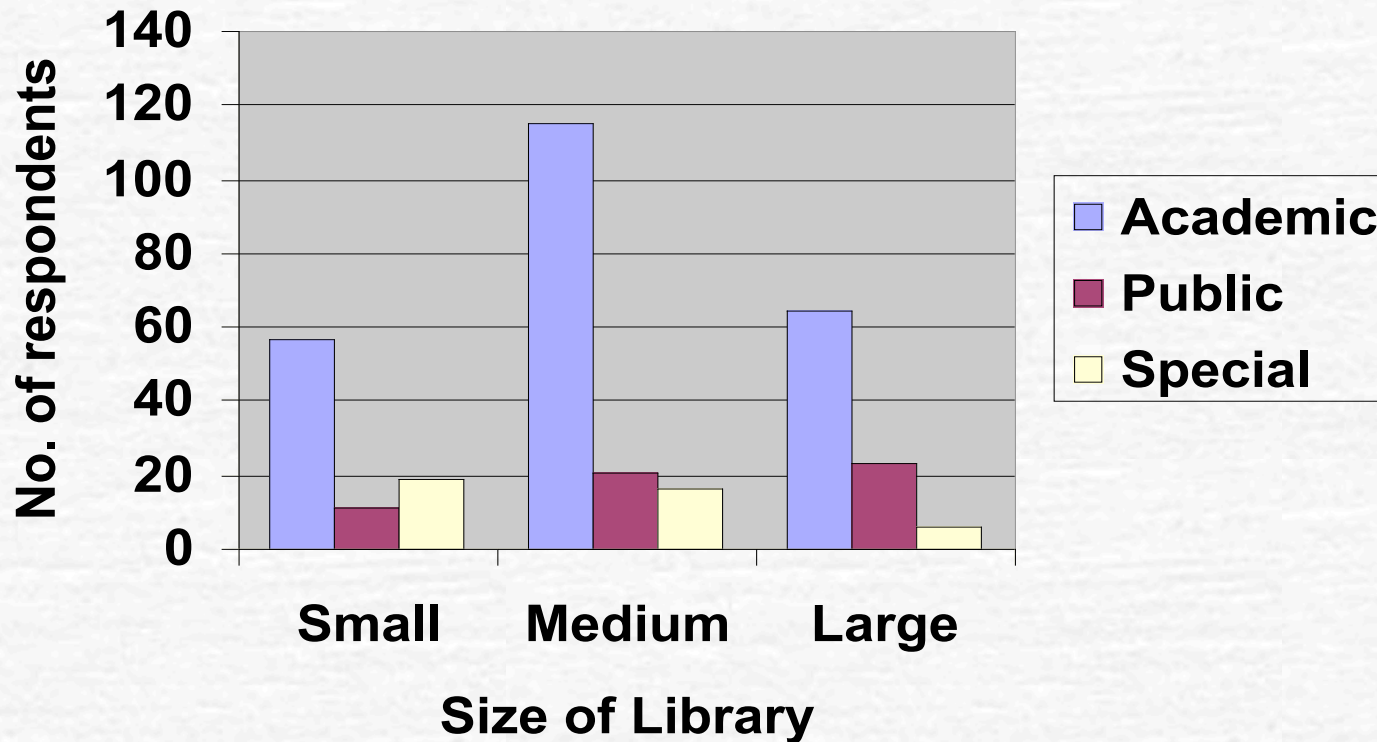
☛ Find out what other libraries do!

# Free ebooks survey

Our short survey was open for 3 weeks and was sent to the following listservs

- eril-l
- digref
- web4lib
- offcamp
- refcan

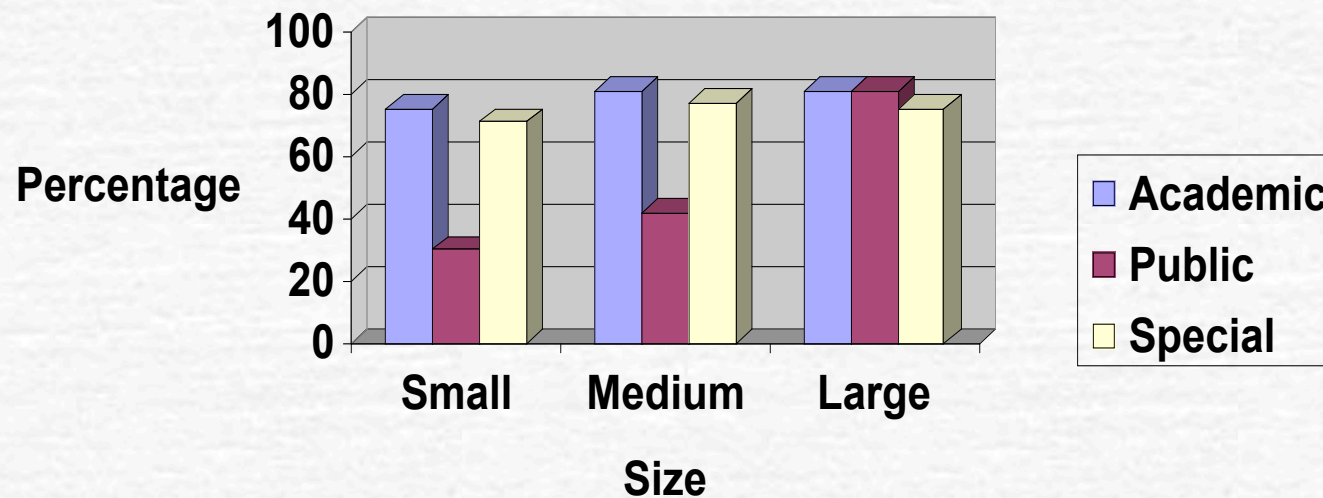
340 total respondents (311 noted size)  
70% Academic, 17.5% Public, 12.5% Special



# Do you maintain access points?

Overall, 75% yes

## Yes to access points, % by Library Type and Size



# What is an ebook?

How would you define an ebook? Choose all that apply:

- ☑ A digital version of a print book 91.5%
- ☑ Any book that is born digital 80.2%
- ☑ Any online report/monograph of "book" length 55%
- ☑ A government document of "book" length 44%
- ☑ Other 4.7%

“Other” mostly tended toward broadening the definition to include reports, audio ebooks, etc., but surprisingly, “In some cases we include online Encyclopedia and e-reference services (e.g. Oxford Ref Online) in our ebook collections.”



# Free ebooks: Why provide access?

- ☛ Patrons might not otherwise find these resources 88%
- ☛ Saves us from possibly paying for what we could get for free 32%
- ☛ They are free, so why not? 31%
- ☛ ebooks are important to our patrons 51%
- ☛ They add valuable content to our collection 88%
- ☛ Other 14%

Comments can be summarized as reiterating importance of providing access to these resources generally, both in terms of online availability for patrons at a distance and findability of the resources.

“Convenience with one-stop searching for all available book resources”

## How do you provide access?

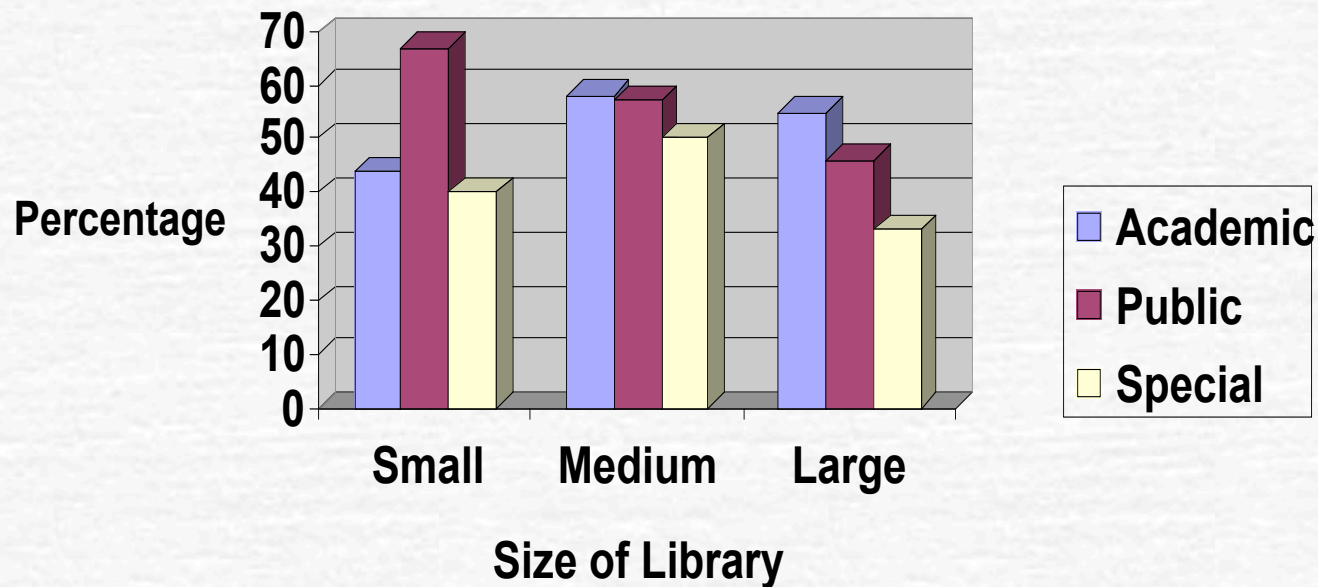
- Links on a web page (pathfinder, subject guides, etc.) 78%
- Via a federated search tool 6%
- MARC records in OPAC 75%
- Wiki / blog 3%
- Other 8%

Other comments noted access points via print handouts and databases other than the catalogue.

# Who has added MARC?

53% total have added title level MARC records

Yes to MARC records by library type and size



# Why no access to free ebooks?

70 respondents said not providing access to free ebooks

- Against library policy 0%
- We have no policy on ebooks 57.1%
- Free internet resources are too unstable and require too much maintenance 47.1%
- Lack of systems (IT) support 21.4%
- No free MARC records 15.7%
- Inappropriate for collection 10.0%
- Do not see the need to provide access 14.3%
- Too time consuming / not enough staff 51.4%
- Other 25.7%

## Comments on why no access points for free ebooks

*"Our acquisitions folks are sort of hard to convince and the cataloging folks will think it would probably mess up their catalog."*

*"Failed experimentation. 2000 e-books were put in the catalog for six months. During that time we had a grand total of 36 hits on the e-book collection. The e-books were then removed from the collection."*

# Integrating free ebooks

- Many comments on the limitations of current ebook services, and on how to make it clear to patrons what ebooks are and how to access them when they find them in the catalogue:

*"Even though the NetLibrary ebooks are included in our catalog, patrons are mystified by them and cannot follow the instructions to click the link to access the book. In library instruction classes, we teach about ebooks, and typically only one student had used ebooks prior to the class. Students like being able to access full books via the Web late at night, although most prefer print resources or short database articles that they can print and read. It would also be better if students did not have to create their free ebooks account from a computer on campus--that eliminates some potential use, including use by students who live at a distance."*

# Survey commentary

*"Problems arise in the notion of "book" -- what is it that would make libraries want to supply "access points" to free ebooks but not to other free texts? free images? free media of any sort? And if we accept all of that, how do we stop from trying to catalogue the web? And then it's not a matter of whether we should or not, it's a matter of whether we can, no?"*

# Survey commentary

*"I really wish the library world would get the concept of "free" out of it's collective head. These materials are not "free", they are "unpriced". They still cost us a lot of money in cataloguing, pointers, maintenance, etc. Whether or not something is priced or unpriced is irrelevant in the determination of its value to our collection. If the content is there, we want the publication. If it's in e-format, so much the better."*



# Free ebooks at RRU Library

- **Goal:** Research and survey results helped to understand free ebook landscape and allowed us to establish guidelines around free ebooks and our library collection.
- **Relevance?** How many of these collections are actually relevant to our particular library?
- **Duplication?** How many of these free scholarly titles do we already have via subscription ebook product or in print?

# RRU ebook “policy”

- Royal Roads University Library subscribes to ebook products that support learning and research in our core program areas. Ebooks, when available in a format that can be made accessible, are a preferred acquisition format in order to support our distributed learning mandate.
- Scholarly free ebook collections that support learning and research in our core program areas will be made available via the library catalogue at the title level when MARC records of an acceptable quality are available or easily obtainable. When MARC records are not available, free ebooks will be catalogued at the title level as resources permit. Free ebook collections are not catalogued in our OPAC at the collection level.

# Questions?

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