

Ionian University. Department of Archive and Library
Sciences

Collections and Access Policies of the Digital Material of Ten National Libraries

Alexandros Koulouris, Sarantos Kapidakis, Yan Zhao
akoul@ionio.gr, sarantos@ionio.gr, Yan.Zhao@Dartmouth.EDU

Introduction

- The *free access* for the metadata and the digital material is the most common policy
- The implemented access policies differ in **various aspects**
- Generalization of the implemented access policies into one **unified** policy
- Study of the **varying parameters** of the implemented access policies
- We foresee new **cost parameters**

Digital collections and access policies

Library of Congress (LC)

- Usually, **free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- However, sometimes the access is **restricted** for all
- Also, in some cases, thumbnails only for offsite users
- Except cases of fair use, **written permission** is needed for the reproduction from the copyright owner
- Possible **fees** may required for the **reproduction** given to the copyright owner

British Library (BL)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- **Written permission** is needed for the reproduction, even for private use, from the BL or the copyright owner

National Library of Australia (NLA)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Due to copyright or other restrictions, some categories of the digital material are only accessible for **onsite** users
- Except cases of private use, **written permission** is required for the reproduction

National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Some items are restricted during **conservation**
- **Written permission** is required for the reproduction from the NLNZ or the copyright owner
- **Reproduction fees** are required given to the Library as a contribution for the preservation of items in the collection of the Library, or to the copyright owner as copyright fess.

National Library of Canada (NLC)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- But, occasionally materials may be **restricted**

Four access policies is under consideration:

1. *Open access.* Unrestricted access for onsite and offsite users
2. *Controlled remote access.* Remote access is available only to specified groups (e.g. registered libraries, registered clients etc.)
3. *Time windowing.* The remote access is initially restricted to within a given timeframe, and then followed by more liberal access afterwards
4. *Onsite consultation.* Access is limited to users on the domain of NLC

Copyright and reproduction

- The user, before reproducing material from the website of the NLC, is asked to read the information provided, or contact the Copyright Bureau otherwise.

National Library of Wales (NLW)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Future plans for implementing **diversified** access and **charging** policies

National Library of Scotland (NLS)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Except cases of private use, **written permission** must be obtained from the Library and permission **fees** must be paid to the Library
- **License** is required for the reproduction of digital images

National Library of Finland (NLF)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- The reproduction for **unauthorized** commercial use is prohibited and the source must be mentioned

National Library of Greece (NLG)

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users

National Library of the Netherlands (KB)

- Usually **free** access, but in some cases, access only for **onsite** users
- **Written permission** is required for the reproduction

Classification of access policies for the digital material and Conclusions

- The National Libraries provide **free access** for onsite and offsite for the metadata and the **non-copyrighted** digital material
- Variations on their policies mostly refer to the way they handle the **copyrighted** digital material
- Nearly always, **free** access to onsite users for the **copyrighted** material
- The **table** presents a synopsis of the implemented **access** policies on the **copyrighted** material

- The first column contains the examined digital **collection**
- The second, shows if offsite users are able to **access** the material.
- The third, shows if written **permission** and/or **license** is needed for the reproduction of the copyrighted digital material for non private use.
- The fourth, shows if a fee is needed for the **reproduction** for non private use.
 - *Library* means that the library asks for a fee, while *owner* means that the owner, which can be the library, requires a fee.
 - Often, the access and the reproduction policies are related to the way that the library has acquired the material and the current status of its copyright ownership.
- The last column has possible **comments** for each case.

Collections	Access for offsite	Written permission and/or license for reproduction	Fee for reproduction	Comments
LC / American Memory	Yes	Permission	Owner	
LC / America's Story from America's Library	Yes	Permission	Owner	
LC / Meeting of Frontiers	Yes	Permission	Owner	
LC / THOMAS: Legislative Information	Yes	No	No	
LC / Prints & Photographs Online Catalog	Thumbnails sometimes	Permission	Owner	Some images are not accessible by anyone

BL / Electronic Beowulf	Selected images	Permission	Library	The fee applies only to the CD-ROM version even for private use
BL / International Dunhuang Project	Yes	Permission	No	
NLA / Collections	Vary	Permission	Owner+	Some categories of digitized material are only accessible for onsite use
NLNZ / Timeframes	Yes	Permission	Library* and owner	
NLNZ / Papers Past	Yes	No	No	
NLNZ / Ranfurly Collection	Yes	No	No	Some items are restricted during conservation
NLNZ / Oral History Project (Excerpts)	Yes	No	No	Access to the full content through conventional ILL

NLC / Electronic Collection	Some	No!	No	
NLC / Glen Gould Archive	Yes	No!	No	
NLC / Virtual Gramophone	Yes	No!	No	
NLW / Digital Mirror	Yes	No	No	
NLS / Digital Library	Yes	License**	Library	
NLF / E-thesis	Yes	No	No	
NLG / Scientific Yearbooks	Yes	No	No	
KB / Web Exhibitions	Yes	Yes	Library and owner	
KB / Electronic Journals	No	Yes	Library and owner	

- + **Depends** on the collection.
- * The **fees** for the reproduction are not **copyright fees** but a contribution towards funds for the **preservation** of items in the collection of the Library. Any fee payable to a **copyright holder** other than the Library is **additional** to the reproduction fee. Usually, the Library does not **charge a reproduction fee** where a **copyright fee** is due.
- ! The user is **asked** to read the **general** notice concerning the **reproduction** of the material.
- ** **License** is required for the **digital images**.

- There is ongoing **effort** from the Libraries to **provide** digital content
- Multiple reasons force the libraries to provide **digital content**:
 1. More **widely** and **easily** accessible than the conventional
 2. **Easier** to update, revise, search, retrieve, copy etc. than the conventional
- The National Libraries have implemented **similar** access policies so far
- The most common access policy is the **free access**

- The access for the **non-copyrighted** digital material and for the metadata is free for onsite and offsite users
- The access for the copyrighted digital material is usually free for **onsite users** and diversified for offsite users depending on the collection.
- Some National Libraries (e.g. NLW), plan on **charging** offsite users for copyrighted digital material
- In some cases, written **permission** is needed for the reproduction of the digital material usually for non private use, but not for online access.
- Also, fee for the **reproduction** can be given to the Library or the copyright owner.
- While, the **fee** given to the copyright owner is copyright fee, the fee given to the Library may refer to reproduction or conservation costs (e.g. NLNZ)

Users classification

Classification of the users up to four groups:

- *Onsite only users.* Staff and users from the buildings of the library such as reading rooms
- *Remote users of collaborated institutions.* Governmental organizations or libraries that need remote access to the collections
- *Individuals registered users.* Remote clients of the library such as users with an annual subscription
- *The rest of the remote users.* Users who search the digital library rarely, or one time visitors etc.

New charging parameters

The access to the digital material can be with or without **charge**

- The **free digital material** is always delivered online by the system
- The delivery method of the **non** free digital material
 - online, through ILL and manual procedures, especially when **written permission** is involved or is sent directly by the permission grander
 - online when the permission granting procedure is **automatic**
- The permission for the **reproduction**
 - Although in most cases it is required to be given in writing, this is not scalable, so we propose an automatic granting procedure

Trends and future work

- The **trends** are:
 - The digital material is **increasing**
 - **Free access** policy when there are resources available
 - **Payment** access policy in order to ensure the **viability** of the digital library when there aren't resources available
- More **complex** policies will be needed soon
 - Needs ... material ...

- **Future work**
 - to relate the **access** and the **reproduction** policies with the way that the library has **acquired** the material
 - To correlate the **usage** of the digital material with the **access** policy
 - **New** policy variations must be predicted and standardized