



SPRING MEETING AND E-BOOK SESSION

COSLA'S ROLE IN PROVIDING E-BOOK ACCESS

A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE MORNING SESSION

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Summary

On May 11, 2011, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) held their Spring Meeting & E-book Session at The National Press Club, Washington, DC. The morning session was hosted by the E-book Task Force. Task Force members are:

- Stacey Aldrich, CA
- Jo Budler, KS
- Rob Maier, MA
- Jim Schepke, OR, Chair

The purpose of the morning session was to develop a strategic framework for COSLA's role in providing e-book access for all libraries. The strategic framework consisted of the following components:

- Challenges
- Core Values
- Vision
- Strategies

This report documents the products developed for the strategic framework by COSLA members.

Challenges

A challenge is a statement reflecting an issue, problem, or barrier facing the library community in providing e-book access.

1. Libraries are subject to business models (e.g., licensing vs. ownership) created by vendors and copyright holders of e-content.
2. Libraries will face challenges in obtaining the necessary new funding, or reallocation of existing funding, to address the high cost of e-books, e-book devices, and e-book services.
3. Libraries are challenged to determine how they will share resources and make them discoverable, provide user education, brand the service, and navigate emerging e-book markets, including self-published works.
4. There are many groups and others (vendors, Digital Library of America, Google Books) locally and nationally, talking independently about e-book issues, thus causing confusion about next steps, actions, and solutions across all library types.
5. The lack of common market standards for equipment, formats, and delivery models causes uncertainty for libraries and e-book consumers.

Core Values

A core value is a declarative statement that reflects what is important to COSLA as it navigates the process to define its role in providing e-book access.

1. Libraries nurture a culture of reading and authorship regardless of format.
2. Libraries play a critical role in ensuring effective discovery and delivery of information services and materials.
3. Libraries maintain the traditional values of intellectual freedom, fair use, and free and equitable access.
4. Libraries ensure permanent access to the original content and diversity of all materials.

Vision

A vision is a statement of COSLA's desired future state in 2015 and guides COSLA's efforts to ensure that all libraries have meaningful roles in providing e-book access.

Through libraries, America seamlessly accesses
comprehensive content in any format.

Strategies

A strategy is a statement that outlines the overall approach for achieving COSLA's 2015 vision that is aligned with the core values.

A brainstorming activity led COSLA members to identify 26 strategies. The original strategies are at Page 4. The E-book Task Force conducted an analysis of the original strategies and then formulated the following key strategies.

1. Establish both national- and state-level leadership presence
2. Involve key stakeholders in the process and keep them informed
3. Employ our collective bargaining power in purchasing and licensing
4. Use common standards for content, devices, and consortial sharing
5. Advocate for all libraries to have affordable e-book content and adequate connectivity to access the content.

Next Steps

Using the strategic framework (challenges, core values, vision, and strategies) developed by COSLA members, the E-book Task Force will develop a short-term action plan for presentation at the annual meeting, October 24-26, 2011.

Original Strategies

1. Include e-books as library brand; everyone will know they can get e-books at the library
2. Clear communications among all groups discussing e-book issues
3. Be assertive in collective national buying among all library types
4. Standard format for licensing and a-la-carte choice
5. Develop grassroots education program among all librarians to develop consensus about the need to offer these collections
6. Speak/advocate for libraries that cannot afford e-book services on their own
7. Establish leadership presence at the national level either by transforming the e-book taskforce into a permanent committee or by establishing a liaison to other groups
8. COSLA could convene a national conference with stakeholders who would be publishers, librarians, providers, and authors
9. Compile best practices, including training, education for librarians, loaning devices
10. Develop education program for funders and decision makers to help them understand the role of libraries in e-book collections
11. Work with vendors to standardize formats and devices
12. Establish an information clearing house that brings together into one place issues surrounding e-books and access to e-books
13. Develop a national RFP for e-content
14. Need to be very concerned about broadband capacity in America
15. Develop national infrastructure both for broadband and catalogue
16. The importance of separating collections from the delivery platform—collection holdings need to be visible in the ILS
17. Influence publishers, aggregators, libraries, the public, funders, collaborators, authors, and decision makers that libraries have a place at the table
18. Establish format standards for format portability
19. Develop open source e-book platform
20. Address contract nondisclosure issues
21. Build into system a method for lending among states or among collections
22. Seek a major supporter to make every library an e-book service provider
23. Need at least one e-book consultant on staff at state level to provide e-book leadership for e-book to libraries in state
24. Continue to have liaison with other e-book initiatives such as the internet archive
25. Library should become a local publisher providing a digital repository—brand local publishing as a library feature or service
26. COSLA visits with publishers

E-book Task Force Point of Contact

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