

Library Notes

Library Media Resources Center

LaGuardia Community College

Volume 21 Number 1

Fall 2009

Library Begins Information 2.0 Series with Talk on Guerilla Pedagogy

By Steven Ovadia, Web Services Librarian

On October 16th, the Library successfully launched their new lecture series, Information 2.0: Knowledge in the Digital Age. Guest speaker Professor Mathew Gold presented *Guerilla Pedagogy: A Hit and Run Guide to Mobile, Open Source, and Aggregated Course Design*.

Gold is Assistant Professor of English at New York City College of Technology and a faculty member in the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy Certificate Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. His teaching and research interests center on the digital humanities, multimodal writing, open-source pedagogy, and new-media studies. He is Project Director of *Looking for Whitman: The Poetry of Place in the Life and Work of Walt Whitman*, an experiment in online multi-campus pedagogy funded by two Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants from the NEH Office of Digital Humanities. He is also Project Director of the CUNY Academic Commons, a new academic social network dedicated to building community across the 23 campuses in the City University of New York system.

Gold's presentation touched on a lot of important issues, but mostly focused on using technology in the service of pedagogy, rather than pedagogy in the service of technology.

Gold also spoke frequently about the importance of openness in teaching, whether through open teaching methods, open learning, or open source software. The term "guerilla pedagogy" refers to using open-source tools, usually outside of formal course management systems, to teach students.

According to Gold, guerilla education networks rely on RSS feeds to bring constantly updated information into the virtual classroom. Guerilla education

networks are also decentralized, networked, lightweight, open, and flexible. He also spoke about how these networks are "mashed," meaning they borrow and re-purpose elements from other sites and online services to create a new user experience.

Gold also discussed the complex nature of copyright, explaining "Copyright must be both respected and undermined."

Gold also called teaching a public service, saying that projects, like helping students improve Wikipedia, not only educates students, but provide a public good. "A lot of good things can happen through open teaching and learning," Gold said.

Gold concluded his presentation with a tour of his *Looking for Whitman* project. The *Looking for Whitman* project links classes at four schools around the idea of inquiry into the relationship of Whitman's poetry to local geography and history. Students and faculty share their work via a network of linked blogs.

The Library will have two more speakers in the Information 2.0 series. William Badke will present *From Broker to Strategist: Notes of a Traveler in the*

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Prof. Matthew Gold
was the first speaker in
the Library's Informa-
tion 2.0 series.

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- *The Literature of the Indian Diaspora*
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By Ann Matsuuchi

Faculty and Staff Highlights

College Laboratory Technician **Eric Moy** reports the Library upgraded the OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) area with 17 computers from IT. Located behind the Reference Desk, the OPAC area allows students easier access to research terminals. With librarians nearby providing individual research assistance, students find doing research on these computers quick and painless.

Charles Keyes, Instructional Services Librarian, and **Elizabeth Namei**, Advisory Reference Librarian, presented "Nemawashi – The Art of Moving Credit-bearing Instruction into the Curriculum" at the Georgia Conference on Information Literacy, Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, in Savannah, GA.

Clementine Lewis, Head of Extended Day/ILL had her paper, "Enhancing the Role of the Library in the Research Process: A Review of the Research Review Competition" accepted to *Technical Services Quarterly*. It is scheduled to be published in 2010.

Web Services Librarian **Steven Ovadia's** "How Does Tenure Status Impact Library Usage: A Study of LaGuardia Community College" was published in *Journal of Academic Librarianship* (35:4).

Coordinator of Access Services **Scott White** was promoted to Associate Professor.

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Ann Matsuuchi

Steven Ovadia

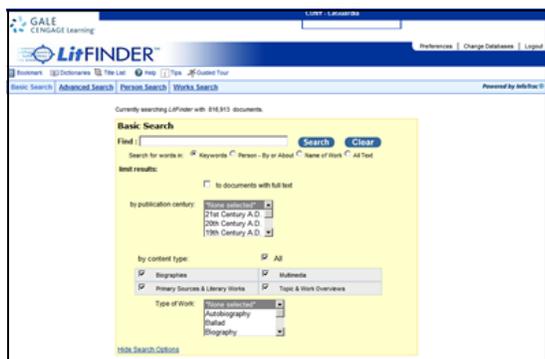
This newsletter is published once each semester by LaGuardia Community College's Library Media Resources Center. Opinions expressed in the content do not necessarily represent those of the Library Media Resources Center or LaGuardia Community College.

Comments may be sent by email to: alaszlo@lagcc.cuny.edu, amatsuuchi@lagcc.cuny.edu or sovadia@lagcc.cuny.edu

Electronica: A Rundown of New and Noteworthy Databases

By Catherine Stern, Electronic Resources Librarian

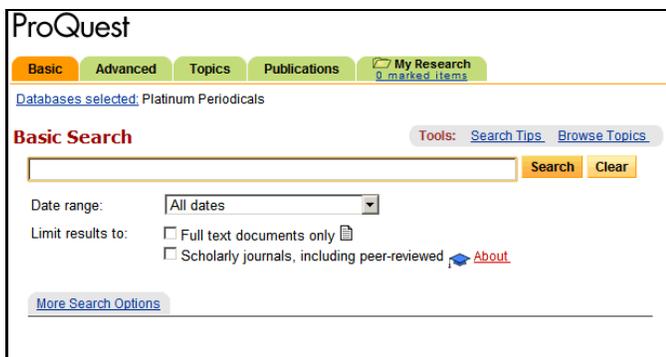
LitFinder, on an extended trial through next summer, contains the full-text of poems, short stories, plays, essays and speeches.



In addition to an upgrade from Academic Search Premier to **Academic Search Complete**, CUNY has added **Education Research Complete** and **MEDLine with Full Text** to its EBSCOhost holdings.

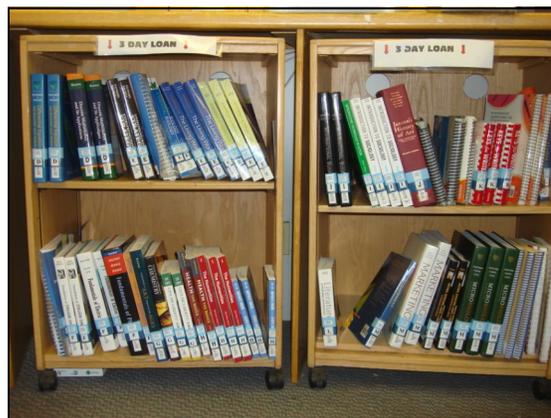
WilsonWeb holdings now include **Cinema Image Gallery** and **Art Museum Image Gallery**

Platinum Periodicals is an excellent general purpose database from ProQuest, similar to some of the EBSCOhost products, but covering a different collection of periodicals.



The venerable **Marquis Who's Who** is now available in Lexis Nexis. Look for a new interface from **Lexis Nexis** at the end of this year.

To use any of these databases, go to the Library's database page where they can easily be found in the *Alphabetical List of Subscription Databases*. ■



A selection of the new textbooks available at the Library.

Photo by Terry Parker

Library Mobilizes in Response to the High Cost of Text Books

By Alex de Laszlo, Collection Development Librarian

The fall semester has seen the arrival of a large collection of textbooks made available to students for loan. These textbooks are all directly course related, heavily used, and represent the latest editions available. LaGuardia's textbook program is piloting a three day loan policy which is designed to provide greater access to commonly used textbooks.

Formerly, the only option for textbook access from the library would be to check out a reserve copy, limited to two hours for in-house use, or, if you were lucky, check out one of the few available copies of current or older editions of the book for a standard three week loan.

Textbook cost has been a topic of universal concern for students with limited financial resources throughout the CUNY system. All too often, students are faced with purchasing essential course textbooks at prohibitive cost. Alternatively, students are faced with relying on reserve copies, renting textbooks, or buying used copies at moderate savings. The Textbook Initiative affords students another option to the existing choices available to them.

The LaGuardia Library has been the recipient of a \$100,000 grant as part of the CUNY-wide Financial Aid Initiative. This Financial Aid Initiative has five components, one of which is the Textbook Initiative, designed to provide financial relief to students in need of course required textbooks. The overall objective of the Initiative is to assist as many students as possible by allowing them to continue to make steady progress toward a degree.

Other pilot programs to be introduced as part of

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From Venezuela to the Worlds Fair...

A Peek Inside the Library's Exhibits Committee

By Robert Gerl, Technical Services Office Assistant

The Library Exhibits Committee has been hard at work during the Fall semester, placing new displays throughout the Library. The committee is chaired by Terry Parker and its other members are Alex Rojas, Professor Francine Egger-Sider, Alex de Laszlo, Linda Sofia, and Robert Gerl.

Some of the earliest exhibits to be created this semester connect the Library to the wider LaGuardia community. The Ayacucho Collection exhibit (see page 7), created by Alex de Laszlo and Arlene Carpio, displays Spanish language texts that were given to the Library through the help of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor's Society at LaGuardia and the Consul General of Venezuela, Carol Delgado. The exhibit is located near the Library's entrance and the books will eventually be placed in the LaGuardia Reference collection.

The other early display of the semester was for this year's Common Reading text: *Dreams from My Father* by President Barack Obama. The exhibit focuses on Obama's early family life, education, and experiences in Chicago and Kenya while hinting at his political life as Senator and President. Books in this case illustrate themes from *Dreams from My Father*, are works referenced within the text itself, or are items on President Obama within the Library's collection.

Work on this exhibit began with the consultation of the Common Reading Website Committee and themes from the book were suggested by librarians Prof. Steven Ovadia, Alex Rojas, and Ann Matsuuchi. Robert Gerl, Alex de Laszlo, and Ann Matsuuchi researched texts and images. The exhibit was arranged by Robert Gerl with some help by Alex de Laszlo. Aid in scanning images was provided by Bokul Bahar and banners were created by Valerie Mazella-Lazides for this and other displays. Terry Parker suggested some additions to the case. The *Dreams from My Father* exhibit will continue to be displayed for the remainder of the academic year. It is located near the Reference desk.

September 26th through October 3rd, 2009 was Banned Books Week and with it came a new exhibit. Led by Prof. Albert Neal and Alex de Laszlo and arranged by Robert Gerl, the Banned Books display shows books that have been prohibited at different times and locations for a variety of reasons - whether religious, social, or political. A chained book, an idea suggested by Prof. Francine Egger-Sider and made real by the efforts of Kaywan Chan, has created much interest in the display. Arlene Carpio and Terry Parker also contributed to this case. The exhibit can be found near the Library's entrance.

The final exhibit added during the Fall semester was on



A signed photograph of President Lyndon B. Johnson visiting the 1964 Worlds Fair. The photo is dedicated to Mayor Wagner. Photo courtesy of LaGuardia and Wagner Archives

the New York World's Fairs of 1939-1940 and 1964-1965. Though researched by Robert Gerl and Alex de Laszlo and arranged by Robert Gerl, this exhibit could not have been created without the assistance of many members of the Library. Professor Jane Devine, Alex Rojas, Nancy Schoppner, and Marie C. Spina all lent items from or concerning the Fairs - some of these being hats, a scarf, and Fair pavilion programs - giving life to a display primarily made up of images and newspaper articles. The LaGuardia and Wagner Archives also proved invaluable by offering unique photographs unable to be obtained anywhere else. Books on the New York World's Fairs that are either in the LaGuardia collection or temporarily donated to the Library are presented on the lowest level of the case. In the coming months the World's Fair exhibit will move from its current place in the back of the Library to one of the entrance display cases.

My work on many of the current exhibits has been a highlight of my experience as an Office Assistant at LaGuardia. I've had much delight in the process of researching images and pertinent texts and in the opportunity to visit various local libraries and institutions to find the elusive article, image, or item. At the end of the long process of gathering material is the pleasure of arranging the display itself. When complete there is the satisfaction of a job well done, though recognizing the end to a project that has been very enjoyable. I have ideas for a new case, but it will have to wait for the Spring semester Exhibits Committee meeting. Unless, of course, I can convince Francine to make this my primary job! ■

2009 Honors Night Awards

By **Clementine Lewis**, Coordinator of Extended Day and Interlibrary Loan Services

The recipients of the Library Research Review Award and the LRC Incentive Award were among the students honored at the 2009 Honors Night Program held September 17th in the Mainstage Theater. Charles Keyes and Alexandra Rojas were in attendance to present the awards and celebrate the academic success of the honorees.

Library Research Review Award

The six students listed below received the Library Research Review Award for the Research Review Competition. In addition to this award, the students received a U. S. Savings Bond donated by Faculty Council and other prizes. The First Place Winner received an iPod Nano, and the Second and Third Place Winners received an iPod Shuffle. The recipients for the Honorable Mention received a USB flash drive.

First Place: **Christina Gloger**,

ENG 101 – Prof. Ellen Czuchlewski

Second Place: **Brian Ocasio**

ENG 101 – Prof. Ellen Czuchlewski

Third Place: **Luis K. Feliz**

ENG 103 – Prof. Lee Goldberg

Merle Holloman

ENG 101 – Prof. Daniel Hegarty

Honorable Mention: **Fiona A. Stiller**

SSP 101 – Dr. Bojana Blagojevic

Jing Wang

ENG 102 – Dr. Phyllis van Slyck

The Library and Faculty Council were especially pleased to have Prof. Czuchlewski in attendance to support her former students who won First Place (Christina Gloger) and Second Place (Brian Ocasio) in the Competition. Prof. Czuchlewski was a long-time supporter of the Research Review Competition and retired in the Spring of 2009.

For additional information about the Research Review Competition, please visit the website located at <http://library.laguardia.edu/services/competition>.

LRC Incentive Award

Four students received the LRC Incentive Award for the Library's three-credit course, LRC 102: Information Strategies, and one-credit course, LRC 103: Internet Research Strategies. This award is given to students who excel academically in these courses and serve as a role model for other students in the class.



Left to right: Brian Ocasio, Ellen Czuchlewski, Christina Gloger, Alexandra Rojas, Charles Keyes and Clementine Lewis.

LRC Incentive Recipients: **Yoojin Han**
Daniela Ramos-Farfan
Stacy Moyston-Duckie
Jonathan Sanchez

Additional information about Library courses can be found on the Library's website at <http://library.laguardia.edu/services/lrc>

Bookstore Humanitarian Award

The 2009 recipient of the LaGuardia Community College Bookstore Humanitarian Award was **Jose Cuevas**. This award recognized Jose's outstanding service to the Library for his work in Media Services and Collection Development. The monetary award was donated by the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. ■

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this initiative include the addition of an ebrary collection, a large collection of electronic books. The purchase of several Kindle readers for loan by students is also under consideration.

The Textbook Initiative involved collaboration from a number of departments. Librarians Scott White and Francine Egger-Sider worked out circulation policies and technical cataloguing issues. Alex de Laszlo worked with Office Assistant Linda Sophia on selection and budgeting concerns. Office Assistants Kaywan Chan and Robert Gerl prepared and catalogued all the textbooks in short order. As a whole, the Library pulled together to make this collection available as quickly as possible. Eventually, we hope to see the program become a regular feature here at LaGuardia so we can better meet our student's needs. ■

ILLiad – A New Web-based Interlibrary Loan Service from the Library

By **Clementine Lewis**, Coordinator of Extended Day and Interlibrary Loan Services

On November 9, 2009, the Library's Interlibrary Loan Service (ILL) introduced a new web-based system known as ILLiad. Using this system, faculty, staff and Phi Theta Kappa students may submit paperless requests to borrow books and articles from other lending libraries. This system will also allow users to create a personal online account to manage and track all of their transactions online, including submitting new requests and requesting loan renewals. As a time-saver and convenience for users, electronic documents will be delivered directly to their personal accounts.

ILLiad will also greatly enhance research activities and improve services to users seeking books and articles not available from CUNY Libraries. For example, users are now able to search a library database and click on the Find It! icon in the database to request an article or book via ILL. The automatic transfer of citation data into the ILLiad request form will eliminate the task of typing this information. This is one of many great features provided by ILLiad to university libraries throughout the world to store and deliver information to users.

To get started, all first-time users must register and select a username and password at <http://lagcc.cuny.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html>. After completing a brief online registration form, registered users will be able to create new requests 24/7, check the status of current requests, request loan renewals, view the history of all requests, retrieve requested articles electronically, and receive e-mail notification when book requests are ready for pick-up in the Library.

After registering, article and book requests may be submitted by going to the Library's home page located at <http://library.laguardia.edu> and clicking on Request a Book or Article listed under the heading of Services.

For information about the new ILLiad service, please visit the Library's web site at <http://lagcc.cuny.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/FirstTime.html>. This web site will provide additional information about ILLiad and FAQs to answer most of your questions about the Interlibrary Loan Service.

You may also contact the Interlibrary Loan Office at (718) 482-5428 or illlg@lagcc.cuny.edu. ■

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- ers_and_libraries
- Electronic Book Reader Landscape:
<http://ireaderreview.com/2009/09/10/electronic-book-reader-landscape/>
- Mobile Read Wiki:
http://wiki.mobileread.com/wiki/Main_Page
- Southern Illinois University LibGuides: eBook Reading Devices -
http://siue.libguides.com/ebook_devices
- Wikipedia: List of e-book readers:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_e-book_readers

Recent Ebook News:

- Internet Archive's BookServer:
<http://www.archive.org/bookserver>;
http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/20/internet_archive_bookserver_launch/
- Handheld Librarian Online Conference 2009:
<http://www.handheldlibrarian.org/>
- Google Editions announcement:
http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gr_qJ19KI8h7PBC-

AEeknD3ezkegD9BBHAT80

- Kindle for academic readers:
<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/11/03/golub>
- Kindle and EULA issues:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/jul/17/amazon-kindle-1984>; Kindle in libraries?
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6649814.html>
- Sony partners with Overdrive:
<http://www.engadget.com/2009/08/25/sony-announces-daily-edition-reader/>
- Sony Reader & ePub format:
<http://www.boingboing.net/2009/11/13/sony-bn-promise-to-r.html>. ■

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Strange Land of Information 2.0, Friday, March 26, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. - noon. Megan Oakleaf will present May 7, 2010. To register for the Information 2.0 series, visit <http://digitalknowledge.eventbrite.com>. ■

Selections for Suggested Reading...

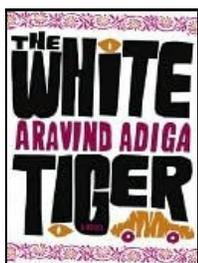
The Indian Diaspora

By Marie Cimino Spina, Institutional Archivist

There are three novels from authors of the Indian diaspora which explore the wages of colonialism, class, political corruption, revolution, crime and love. All three are prize winners or have been nominated for Booker and other prizes. They are all significant in helping to broaden understanding of the social issues of our time...perhaps of all time?

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga (2008)

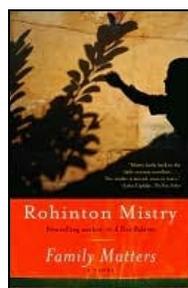
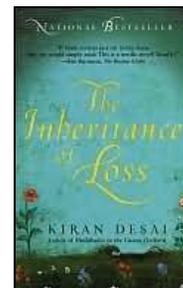
In the form of letters to the Chinese leader, this is a rags to riches story fueled by revenge and the wages of the crimes of society. It is not a happy tale. It is dark and murderous. This is not a comforting "read," but this Asian journalist from Time demonstrates himself to be a genius storyteller who can twist and change perceptions of class, success and the nature of corruption. "White men will be finished in my lifetime..." "In 20 years time it will just be us brown and yellow men at the top of the pyramid, and we'll rule the world." Can we agree with this successful murderer? A moral conundrum to be sure, if the top will be as selfish and bitter as the imperial pyramid has been.



Inheritance of Loss by Kiren Desai (2006)

The daughter of Anita Desai wrote this heartbreaking story of ex-pats and postcolonial life. It was set in the 1980s but was called by the *New York Times* reviewer the best sort of

post 9/11 novel. The family issues and politics of this part love story are not only particular to India but they are also universal. There is the love story of a young girl, politics, semi- Maoist revolutionaries and a post colonial judge who has sexual identity and self worth issues. The story plays on themes of actual and perceived marginalization and victimization both as natives in postcolonial India and as expatriate immigrants living in England. The legacy Desai finds is a heartbreaking lesson taught by injustice. She writes, "Old hatreds are endlessly retrievable," ... "purer . . . because the grief of the past was gone. Just the fury remained, distilled, liberating."



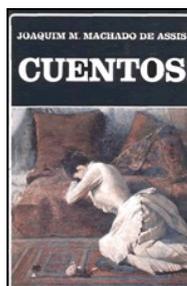
Family Matters by Rohinton Mistry (2002)

The back story of lies and disillusion in the family and the love and care seen through a narrator and a young child will widen understanding of all family dynamics in any culture. The disillusion and development into fanatic religiosity and the issue of economics and responsibility is developed very skillfully and in a heartbreaking manner. The values of obligations and changing society play out in a tension that needs to be understood in our egocentric society.

These three works of fiction provide a vivid window into the harsh social inequity and injustice presented by India's postcolonial reality. ■

The Ayacucho Collection Arrives at LaGuardia

On May 26th, Venezuelan Consul Carol Delgado presented a voluminous collection of Spanish language books to LaGuardia. The Ayacucho Collection consists of literary works from Latin America as well as non fiction works of history, philosophy and political science. The collection, which took 32 years to compile and contains 230 volumes, is a 2009 nominee for inclusion in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. ■



One of the Library's Ayacucho titles.



l-r Charles Keyes, Alex de Laszlo, Peter Katopes, John Chaffee, Consul General of Venezuela, Carol Delgado, Karlyn Koh, and Dean Sergio Quezada of Universidad Central de Chile.

The Book in Transition: Ebook Readers in Libraries

By Ann Matsuuchi, Instructional Technology/
Systems Librarian

Library staff participated in the Handheld Librarian Online Conference during the past summer as a way of learning more about possible directions in library service. In particular, we were curious about some pilot programs where ebook readers like the Amazon Kindle have been loaned out to students. So far, findings are tentative but optimistic. We'll talk about a few of the obstacles to usage of ebook readers in libraries, and provide some resources for comparison of the growing number of available devices.

Ebook readers have proven to be more than a passing technological fad: research predicts that 900,000 e-readers will sell in the U.S. during this year's holiday season. Google's announcement of an ebook sales division, Google Editions, assures continuing market growth.

There is an industry acknowledgment of reader demand for content delivered in a variety of ways, including the much-loved model of borrowing books from the library. Sony recently partnered with an ebook platform that services libraries. The platform, called Overdrive, is in development with the new Sony Reader Daily Edition. This device features a selling point that distinguishes it from the Kindle; a "library finder" which conveniently allows for a "digital library on-demand." Ebooks can be borrowed remotely for set loan periods, virtually functioning as a physically borrowed book from the library.

The Internet Archive, with backing from major technology publisher O'Reilly, has also announced development of an open architecture platform for delivering ebooks via an open and flexible means. BookServer would allow for the selling and lending of digital books via a standardized process onto a variety of devices, not limited to dedicated ebook readers. This improved form of delivery is not yet promoted by ebook readers that currently dominate the market. There are issues in key areas that need resolving before they become usable and desirable tools for library use.

Content is Still Limited...

Publisher participation is not yet universal leading to a comparatively limited selection of ebook content. A recent review of Kindles for an academic audience from *Inside Higher Ed* made some good points about how scholars and students read differently than the general audience that these devices are being sold to. Titles made available tend to be limited to popular bestsellers. The experience of reading academic texts is accompanied by certain requirements: note taking and annotation, easy navigation between text and footnotes, inclusion of images (and ideally, video) that are not fully met by

current offerings. The academic reader has different needs than the casual beach reader or the many other types of readers with different purposes.

Ownership and Intellectual Property Concerns...

Amazon's gaffe over the summer with disappearing ebook versions of Orwell's *1984* unintentionally highlighted how owning an ebook can have different implications than owning a physical book. The End User License Agreement (EULA) that governs your purchase of a Kindle title states in Section 3: "Unless specifically indicated otherwise, you may not sell, rent, lease, distribute, broadcast, sublicense or otherwise assign any rights to the Digital Content or any portion of it to any third party, and you may not remove any proprietary notices or labels on the Digital Content." This would seem to preclude library experimentation with loaning out Kindles, but regardless several libraries are already trying this out without repercussions. Whether or not this is legal seems to be unclear even to Amazon. The persistence of content and terms of ownership relies on the continued goodwill and business success of the vendor. It would seem unless user demands are not voiced more strongly that ebook purchases would follow the current dominant model in libraries: ebooks are only temporary visitors on the library's digital shelves. Physical books do take up valuable real estate, but they are also preservable, tradable, resalable objects that usually fully belong to the owner. Shouldn't we ask that ebooks be treated similarly?

Limitations Due to Format Incompatibility...

Part of the ownership problem lies with proprietary file format limitations such as Amazon's DRM-restricted format (AZW). Amazon, like Apple, does not currently fully support open, standard file formats. Competitors like Sony and Barnes & Noble have made efforts in this direction in order to win customer attention. Sony's use of the ePub open file format is part of their claim that they support a better model of ownership. Barnes & Noble's Nook also allows for sharing of ebooks between users for limited time periods.

For more information on ebook readers:

Kindle? Nook? Sony Reader? What features distinguish them? Take a look at these comparison guides online:

- eBook Reader Guide: <http://www.ebook-reader-guide.com/>
- Ebook Readers and Libraries - Library Leadership Network: http://pln.palinet.org/wiki/index.php/Ebook_read

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