DCL eBook Model Project

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Discounts Ownership

Integration

35+ Publishers

900 Imprints

40+k Titles

Open source (VuFind)

Single Library System
(7 branches)
DCL Funded $600k
(tech, content, development, staff)
Launched 2011

Library Controlled

• Emerging, small, midlist, independent & self-published.
• Library-created content
• Larger distributor titles.

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Integration

20 Publishers

700+ Imprints

Opening Day Collection:
• $11,000
• 1,200 titles
• 462 Guttenberg

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• CO State Library, DCL, CLiC, & Marmot
• Serving ALL Colorado libraries
  (including 80+ rural)
• Funded by IMLS LSTA = $209,460
• Alpha deployment 2014

Group Controlled

Scale

ODILO
lending & acquisitions Marketplace

eBooks
Audiobooks
Videos

Open source (VuFind)

• Shared collections
• Library owned collections
• DRM + Non DRM

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  (including 80+ rural)
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Resources and funding required to launch a library owned platform platform

- People
- Technology
- Processes

**Important Note:** Time and money quite significant for a project of this magnitude—No one library system should embark on this without carefully considering ROI.
Pros of owning your own platform

- Cost savings – Content (25% - 50% discount)
- Control of the Infrastructure: Can archive and move content to other storage
- Ownership vs. License
- Deep Integration with existing Discovery Layer
- Library as Publisher: Locally grown content
- Access to all circulation and patron behavior data
Cons of owning your own platform

- Technical Skillset – Keeping up with the features/development of own platform
- Time and effort required to negotiate with publishers
- Managing multiple streams of content: Commercial (3M, Overdrive, B&T) & owned
- None of the Big 5 want to play with individual libraries
- Curating content (self-published eBooks typically don’t have reviews to help in selection)
Suggestions to a consortium considering launching a library owned platform

- Governance – Who owns what is in the consortium – Portability?
- Partnerships – Join forces with others to share costs of development
- Business models should be well thought out – Shared collections vs. non shared collections.
- Unified standards for cataloguing and processing of materials
- Content Acquisition Terms: Ability to manage potential differences in pricing, licensing and purchase terms;
- Establish measures of success – Criteria for measuring activity (circ trends)
- HTML5 Cloud Reader vs. Branded eReader Software
Suggestions to a consortium considering launching a library owned platform

- make the best possible use of hybrid models including:
  - a) Use of ownership, licensing and leasing models when appropriate, and
  - b) Use of downloading, streaming and partial downloading models when appropriate, and
  - c) Use of ePub, PDF, HTML5 and other formats when appropriate.

- Carefully analyze cost efficiencies and savings in the cost of operating, including but not limited to purchasing, processing, and staffing.