

Online Resource Update

Joy Cadwallader, Aberystwyth University

Please send your submissions for the next issue to jrc@aber.ac.uk

COVID-19

In response to the closure of library doors, the population is getting to grips with life online and I for one am appreciating the access I have to e-books, e-audiobooks and e-zines through my public library membership and [BorrowBox](#). A number of academic publishers and partners are making efforts to help students, lecturers and researchers via a range of measures including enabling temporary access to additional content, removing simultaneous access limits on e-books and enhancing existing services to prioritise online content e.g. Jisc Library Hub Discover. The CLA have temporarily increased the HE copyright-cleared book scan limit from 10% to 30% with scans permitted from books owned by academic staff. Jisc have summarised much of this activity and their own contribution [on this page](#).

Audible

The Bookseller [reports](#) that a settlement has been reached between Audible and the publishers who issued the copyright lawsuit against [Audible Captions](#): Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin Random House, and Simon & Schuster. The terms of the [final settlement](#) were announced in March 2020. ‘Audible are to pay an undisclosed sum to each of the plaintiff publishers and the AAP - the parties have elected to keep the payment amounts confidential by arguing that disclosure of such, risks creating the impression that “the settlement amount reflects the monetary values of the claims, which is not true.” Further, a final injunction permanently restrains Audible from including AAP member works in their captions programme without permission.’

Mapping Manuscript Migrations

From a project with multiple partners including the Bodleian libraries, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (Pennsylvania) and Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes (Paris), and multiple funders including the Trans-Atlantic Platform and the ESRC, the semantic portal [Mapping Manuscript Migrations](#) is now available. Researchers can

browse and search linked collections of thousands of European medieval and Renaissance manuscripts whilst, ‘navigating the network of connections between people, institutions and places’. The [project blog](#) says the MMM, ‘shows how these manuscripts have travelled across time and space to their current locations, where they continue to find new audiences’. Thanks to [Infodocket](#) for this nod.

McGraw Hill/Cengage

The Society of College, National and University Libraries ([SCONUL](#)) has written to the Competition and Markets Authority regarding the possible purchase of Cengage Learning Holdings by McGraw-Hill Education, saying, ‘it would result in a substantial lessening of competition within the market for academic textbooks in the UK’, and urging them to investigate it formally. A link to the full letter is available from the SCONUL’s [press release](#).

Sci-Hub

The Washington Post [published a story](#) just before Christmas, saying that the US Justice Department is investigating the creator of Sci-Hub as she is under suspicion of working with the GRU, the Russian military foreign-intelligence service, to steal US military secrets from defence contractors. Without revealing sources, the article indicates that Alexandra Elbakyan has been under suspicion since 2014 and that this, ‘investigation has both criminal and intelligence-gathering elements’. Sci-Hub allows free access to published research, normally only available via subscription, through the illegal gathering of researchers’ login credentials. The GRU is, ‘the same organization that stole emails from the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton’s campaign chairman and then provided them to WikiLeaks in 2016’.

Talis

Talis now has customers in [Canada](#). The University of Alberta will implement the Aspire reading list service and the Advanced MIS product to provide them with resource usage analytics. Talis Aspire has also been chosen by Okanagan College, British Columbia. Talis Aspire has been adopted at more than one hundred universities in nine countries.

University of California/Elsevier

The University of California is polling their students and staff to assess the impact of ending their subscription to Elsevier ScienceDirect. In the [same announcement](#) they have reported on healthy negotiations, both ongoing and completed, towards a range of ‘read

and publish' style deals with Wiley, Springer Nature, ACM. JMIR Publications and Cambridge University Press.

US public libraries/Macmillan

This Whatcom County Library System's [page](#) provides a really useful overview of the eBooksForAll campaign including updates on the number of US public libraries boycotting the purchase of Macmillan ebooks together with other developments and links to sources. Get a real flavour of Macmillan CEO John Sargent's 'ask me anything' at the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits conference on January 25th in [Publishers Weekly](#) and [Information Today](#), and [the response from the American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) (which appeared before he'd finished) and from Digital Book World who [banned Macmillan from their 2020 conference](#). Thanks to [Infodocket](#) for this nod.

University of Kent

I saw [an article](#) about the late and much-loved comedian Jeremy Hardy in the Guardian back in February and it mentioned that he'd deposited audio and video recordings of his performances with the University of Kent. So I had a look at their website and discovered [his page](#) in their excellent [British Standup Comedy Archive](#) where there are descriptions of content they hold from a range of favourites including Alexei Sayle and Linda Smith, and a [corresponding Flickr site](#).

VAT on ePublications

VAT on e-books and online newspapers was abolished in the March budget but sadly not for audiobooks, a particular blow for the disability campaigners such as the RNIB. The change was preceded by a legal ruling in favour of News Corp UK back in January which meant that VAT would be zero-rated for the online editions of the Times and the Sunday Times. The Bookseller [reported](#) that the Publishers Association (PA), 'is now considering the implications of the Upper Tribunal judgment for e-books, e-journals and audiobooks'. The PA have long campaigned on this issue via their [Axe the Reading Tax](#) campaign. Could this mean savings for cash-strapped library resources budgets soon?