Libraries as Publishers

The Cornell Model

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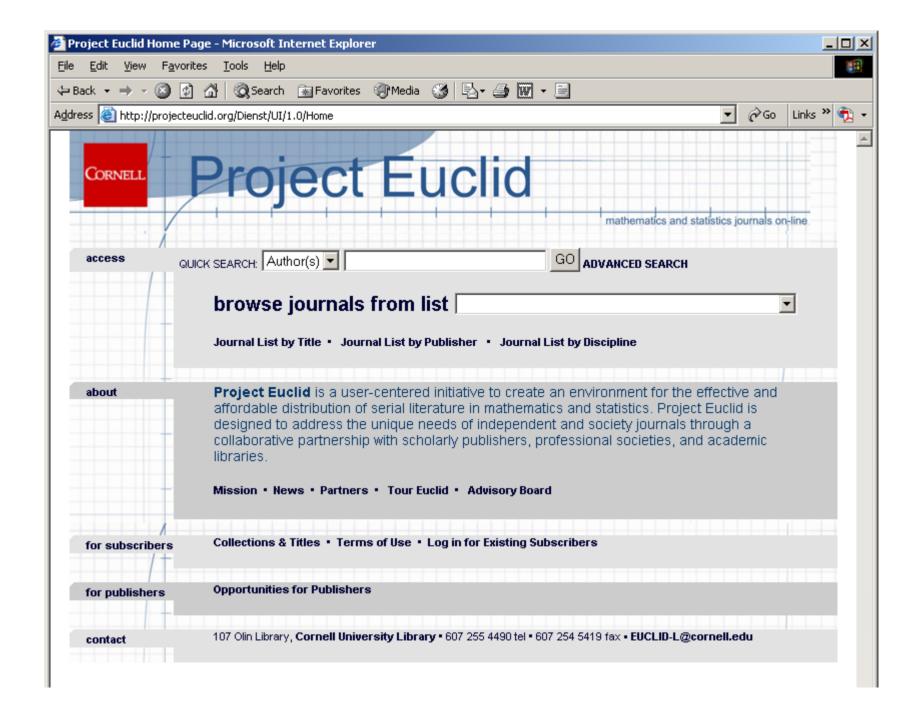
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Why libraries?

- Central to the mission and function of the academy
- Have infrastructural resources and curatorial expertise
- Can exploit the synergies among various content taxonomies
- Can offer complete lifecycle services

The Prototype: Project Euclid

- An electronic publishing initiative of Cornell University Library
- A service designed to support independent & society publishers
- A flexible platform for the delivery mathematics and statistics journals

Why Project Euclid?

- Promote cost-effective and sustainable models for scholarly communications
- Encourage the design and deployment of alternative publishing models *within* the academy
- Facilitate the transition from analog to digital distribution for independent publishers
- "Return scholarship scholars"

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Project Euclid

mathematics and statistics journals on-line

access

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about

Project Euclid is a user-centered initiative to create an environment for the effective and affordable distribution of serial literature in mathematics and statistics. Project Euclid is designed to address the unique needs of independent and society journals through a collaborative partnership with scholarly publishers, professional societies, and academic libraries.

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System supporting Euclid

- DPubS (Digital Publishing System)
  - A publishing system used to organize, navigate, access, and deliver both open access and subscription controlled scholarly publications

Library Collections Utilizing DPubS

- Computer Science Technical Reports
- Historical Monographs
- International Women's Periodicals

http://www.library.cornell.edu/about/digital_collections.html

DPubS v.2

- A generalization and enhancement of the extant system
- Will support the delivery of non-serial literature, i.e. grey, monographic, non-textual
- Will provide a publishing supra-structure for OS repositories
- Will support support "communities of common practice" under OA or fee-based models (engineered to be agnostic)
- To be released under an open source license in mid-2006

Issues

- Recruitment
  - Contract and license negotiations – with publishers, not authors; with libraries, not end users.
- Education
  - How to let go of the paper and shift the asset value to the electronic instantiation
- Diplomacy
  - Balancing the sometimes conflicting needs of publishers, librarians, and scholars

Afterword

"Information Wants To Be Free. Information also wants to be expensive. Information wants to be free because it has become so cheap to distribute, copy, and recombine – too cheap to meter. It wants to be expensive because it can be immeasurably valuable to the recipient. That tension will not go away. It leads to endless wrenching debate about price, copyright, 'intellectual property', the moral rightness of casual distribution, because each round of new devices makes the tension worse, not better."

Stewart Brand, 1984