Accessing Journals: Methods & Philosophies

Open access journals

- BioMed Central

- Hindawi

- Internet Scientific

- Medknow Publications

- PLoS (Public Library of Science)

- Scholarly Exchange

- Many others

Archive services

- ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

- Hein Online

- JSTOR

- PEP Archive

- Direct access to backfiles via some publishers

Cover-to-cover full-text databases (aggregated collections)

- EBSCO Publishing
  – via EBSCO*host*

- Gale
  – via Dialog
  – via FindArticles.com (free)
  – via PowerSearch

- ProQuest
  – via Dialog
  – via Factiva
  – via OCLC FirstSearch
  – via ProQuest

- Wilson
  – via OCLC FirstSearch
  – via Ovid
  – via WilsonWeb

Largely selective full-text databases (aggregated collections)

- Factiva

- LexisNexis Academic

- SIRS

The most current and most stable form of access to online journals is via for-fee e-journal subscriptions. However, this model has limitations:

- Some publishers have an institutional e-journal, but only with revolving coverage

- However, these same journals are often available via cover-to-cover full-text databases with cumulative coverage
    - For example, *Academy of Management,* one of the world's leading business journals publishers, has a revolving coverage institutional e-journal, but its online backfiles are cumulative via EBSCO*host* (*Business Source*)

- While some publishers are offering extensive backfiles with their e-journals, most are not
    - Yet, many journals only have online access to their backfiles via:
        - archive services (Hein Online, JSTOR, PEP Archive, etc.), or…
        - cover-to-cover full-text databases, i.e., EBSCO*host* (e.g., *Business Source, SocINDEX with Full Text,* etc.).

The most current and most stable form of access to online journals is via for-fee e-journal subscriptions. However, this model has limitations:

- Large publishers frequently buy and sell journals

- Therefore, a library can buy access to a journal through a publisher package and then find that journal disappears when the publisher sells it to another publisher from whom the library does not purchase a publisher package

- Some publishers put restrictions on their e-journals

- While embargoes are now extremely rare on e-journals, there are other restrictions that are more unusual for the other models, such as access or download limitations

No library can have a complete collection relying entirely on e-journal subscriptions

This is why even those universities with the largest e-journal collections in the world are supplementing those collections with online journals from these other models.

These other models have their benefits and disadvantages.

Open Access

- Open access journals have the enormous advantage of being free

- However, there is a debate about the quality and/or level of peer review of these journals (especially in situations where the author is the one providing the funding)

- In addition, many of these journals are embargoed
  - For example, *The New England Journal of Medicine* is available at no charge with a 180-day embargo
  - However, it is also available through cover-to-cover full-text databases (EBSCO*host* via *MEDLINE with Full Text*, and, ProQuest) with only a 90-day embargo

- Further, it is available as an institutional e-journal with no embargo (the best, but most expensive option)

Open Access

- Another disadvantage of open access journals is that they are not always indexed in online research databases

- Indexes such as *MEDLINE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Academic Search,* etc. are trailblazing in this area, but many other indexes have not proactively pursued open access journals for indexing coverage

- There are also services like DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), Open J-Gate, Szczepanski's List, etc. that are, in effect, very helpful lists of open access journals, but none are high quality research databases with in-depth article indexing

Archive Services

- Archive services are very popular supplements to e-journal collections

- JSTOR is the clearly the leader in this area

- Librarians value the ownership gained by their institutions through this model

- Usage from faculty is often heavy, which is also a real benefit to libraries

- This model provides the library with full backfiles for hundreds of journals and is clearly superior to microfilm or microfiche
  - Documents often look better
  - More widely accessible

- However, this model has its drawbacks too…

Archive Services

- The journals are almost never current

- In fact, most journals contain enormous delays because of publisher-imposed embargoes (JSTOR refers to these as a "moving wall") of what is usually three to ten years (or worse)

- In the case of some of the best publishers participating in JSTOR, the moving wall is often fixed (i.e., permanently stopped)…

Range of Moving Walls in JSTOR

Moving Wall Length	Number of Journals with that Moving Wall Length	Overall % of Journals by Moving Wall
0	30	1.85
1	78	4.82
2	85	5.26
3	628	38.88
4	50	3.09
5	506	31.33
6	0	0
7	50	3.09
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	15	0.93
Fixed*	29	1.76
Complete or Absorbed into another title	144	8.92
Total	1,615	100

Archive Services

- JSTOR does not do well with for-profit publishers

- Its holdings are dominated by non-profits, universities, university presses, associations and societies

- Unfortunately for them, the best of these have pulled out many or all of their journals, leaving JSTOR with a "fixed wall" (i.e., permanent end date)
    - For example, the following university presses now have "fixed walls" in JSTOR:
        - Duke University Press
        - Johns Hopkins University Press
        - Oxford University Press
        - The University of Chicago Press
        - Etc.

Journal Archives via
Cover-to-Cover Full-Text Databases

- In addition, JSTOR relies heavily on subject indexes from other vendors to drive traffic to their archives

- For example, much of JSTOR's traffic comes from databases via EBSCO*host* (e.g., *Academic Search, Business Source, EconLit, ERIC, PsycINFO,* etc.), and this will become even more concentrated now that the two leading historical indexes (*America: History & Life* and *Historical Abstracts*) are migrating to EBSCO*host*

- While EBSCO is pleased to provide indexing for and links to journals available in JSTOR, EBSCO is also a very large provider of full-text journal archives in its own right
  - For example, in all of JSTOR, there are 1,615 journals (according to the chart shown above, pulled from the JSTOR website on February 27, 2012)
  - That figure (1,615) is across all disciplines
  - However, in just two disciplines (business and sociology), EBSCO has created PDF archives for hundreds of journals and actually surpasses JSTOR in these subjects

JSTOR business journals vs. EBSCO's *Business Source Complete*

	JSTOR Business	EBSCO's BSC
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1966 and 1975	34	71
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1976 and 1989	54	130
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1990 and 1994	16	298
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1995 and 1999	7	721

Compared on February 27, 2012

JSTOR sociology journals vs.
EBSCO's *SocINDEX with Full Text*

	JSTOR Sociology	EBSCO's SIFT
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1966 and 1975	23	31
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1976 and 1989	25	42
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1990 and 1994	6	72
Journals with Full Text Beginning Between 1995 and 1999	1	122

Compared on February 27, 2012

Journal Archives via
Cover-to-Cover Full-Text Databases

- These two databases are not the only cover-to-cover full-text databases with deep full-text backfiles for journals

- EBSCO has also done similar projects for the multi-disciplinary *Academic Search Complete,* and on a smaller scale, for subject-specific databases such as:
  - *LGBT Life with Full Text*
  - *Humanities International Complete*
  - *Education Research Complete*
  - *Communication & Mass Media Complete*
  - *CINAHL Plus with Full Text*
  - And others...

- Moreover, the company is in the process of an extensive full-text journal backfile digitization project for the not-yet-released *Historical Abstracts with Full Text* and *America: History & Life with Full Text* databases

Journal Archives via
Cover-to-Cover Full-Text Databases

- While its competitors have focused on digitizing backfiles of newspapers, EBSCO has recognized the opening that exists in journal archives and is filling the gap

- EBSCO*host* full-text databases are a necessary complement to JSTOR for any university that is serious about providing archival full-text access to important journals

- While the model is not one of ownership for the library, like JSTOR, the model is preferable to publishers, which is why EBSCO can surpass JSTOR in any discipline in which it focuses
  - guaranteeing that these products will be seen as a necessary complement to JSTOR

The Main Value of
Cover-to-Cover Full-Text Databases

- More important than backfiles is the issue of current, ongoing access to journal literature

- Contrary to common belief, no library can afford to buy access to every e-journal available, and even if they could, there are still many journals for which there is no institutional e-journal

- Due to this, libraries cannot gain current access to enough journals simply by relying on e-journal subscriptions, and JSTOR is not intended to (or able to) help in this area

- As a result, cover-to-cover full-text databases are needed to provide an additional way for end users to get to full-text from important sources

The Main Value of
Cover-to-Cover Full-Text Databases

- As mentioned earlier, some cover-to-cover full-text databases (those via EBSCO*host*) actually act as (in effect) the institutional e-journal for many leading publications

- Examples were mentioned earlier, but the point is that this is one of the reasons that these products are a necessary complement to e-journal subscriptions

- Other reasons include:
  - extensive backfiles (as mentioned above, at least via EBSCO*host*)
  - ongoing full-text for journals that do have an e-journal, but for which the library does not subscribe to those e-journals
  - Etc.

Thank You