ReadersFirst

A movement to improve e-book access & services for public library users

Edward H. Ramonly

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eBook Challenges

Libraries face a challenge of **availability** in that some publishers won't license eBooks under a library-lending model Libraries face a challenge of **discoverability and access** from eBook platforms that are fragmented and hardto-use

Focus of ReadersFirst



Libraries have a responsibility to ensure that users have the same open, easy, and free access to ebooks as print books.

> Products currently offered by econtent distributors create a **fragmented**, **disjointed**, and **cumbersome** user experience.



Library Systems

United States

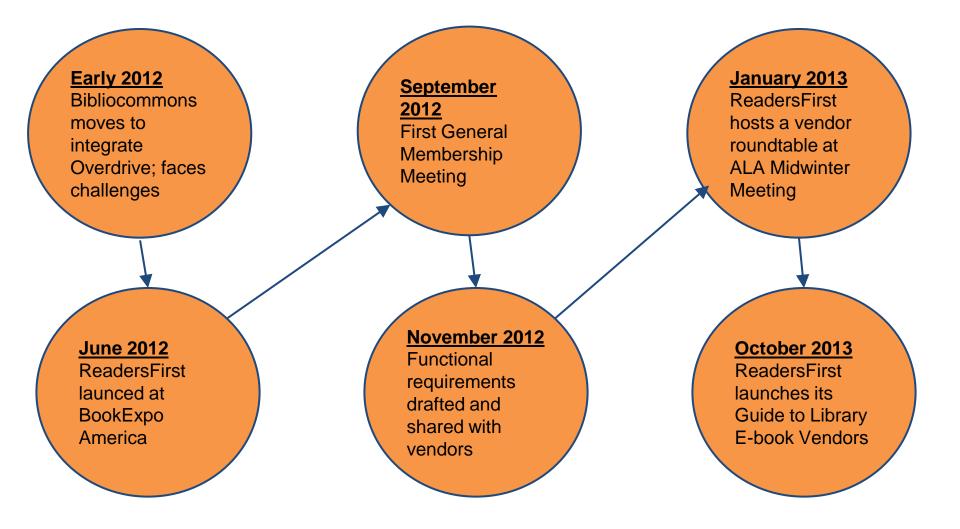
México

Canada

199

Million Readers

The Story So Far



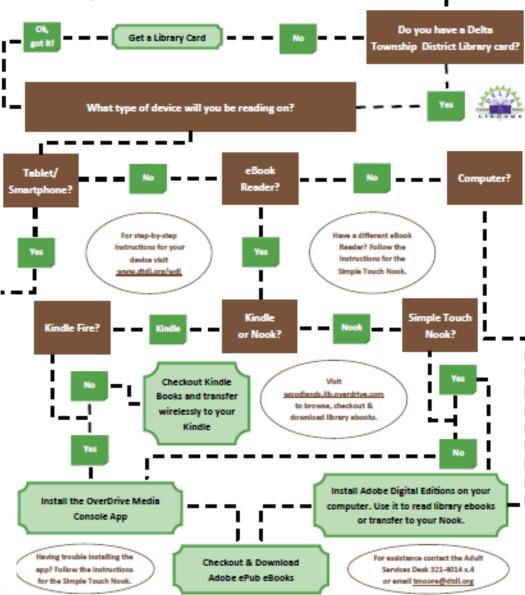
"a fragmented, disjointed, and cumbersome user experience."

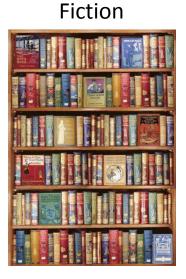


Woodlands Downloadable Library woodlands.lib.overdrive.com

A library ebook flow chart

How do I get ebooks from the library?





Non-fiction





Physicalcolle

ctions and experiences are designed according to patron expectations



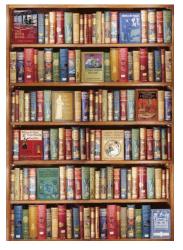
Reading Space OPEN TO ALL

Reading Space OPEN TO ALL



Reading Space OPEN TO ALL

Distributor A



Distributor B





Digitalcollections

and experiences are organized by the source and format of the material







Device C ONLY

Device A ONLY

ReadersFirst Principles

Discover

content in a single comprehensive catalog

Interact with

the library within the library's own context

Accessa variety

of e-content from multiple sources

Read e-books

that are compatible with all readers Library e-book products bundle digital content with functionality **we already have** (and pay for) in our catalogs and discovery environments.



Content

Rights Management

Search/Browse

Discovery

Circulation/Lending

Account Information

Notifications



ReadersFirst is advocating for vendors to **unbundle** functions and provide methods (API's) to integrate them into the environments our patrons already know and associate with our libraries.







Application Programming Interface

> An **application programming interface** is a set of rules or protocols that can be used by software components to communicate with each other.

Open Architecture



velops API's (or other methods) to expose **content** and **lending** functionality

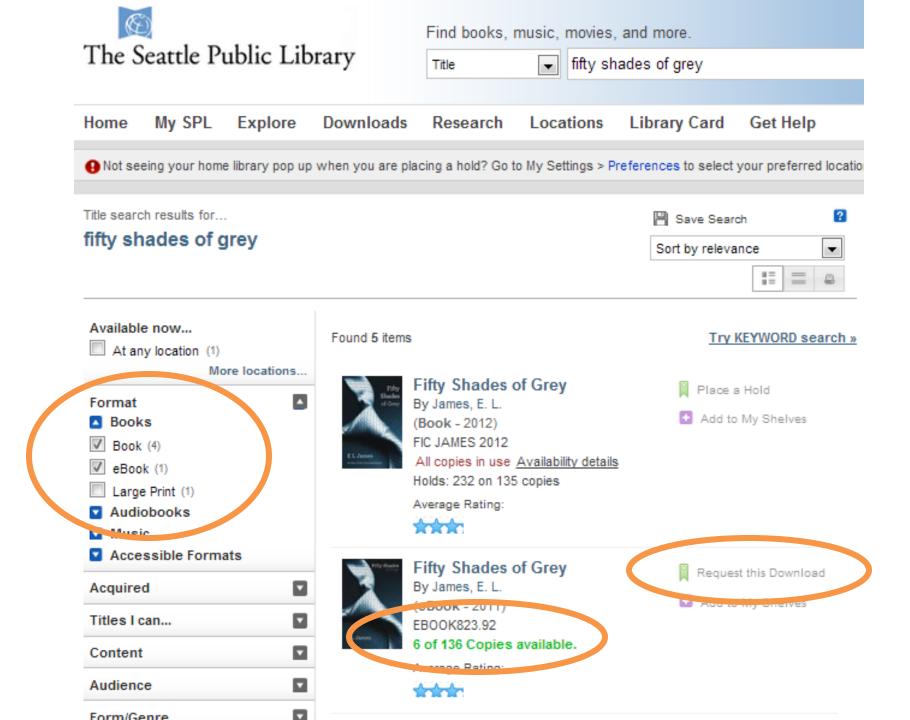
> OverDrive 3M Baker & Taylor LibraryIdeas Recorded Books Ingram

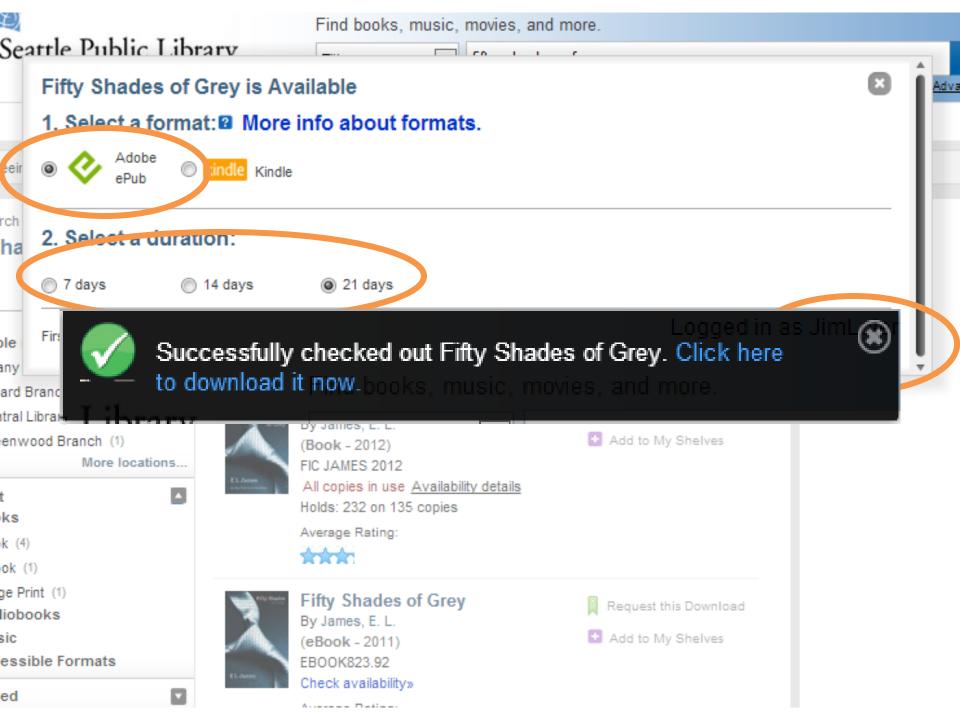
Consumeruse

s API's to integrate and display **content** and **borrowing** functionality



SirsiDynix BiblioCommons Innovative Polaris CARL Evergreen Boopsie ANY APP!!!





"As libraries look to build out **rich online engagement** with patrons, the desired state is to have the patron completely stay within the **library's controllable, virtual walls.**"

- Christopher Platt, NYPL

"We're in a situation now where we have to provide a **different discovery system** depending on where we bought the content from. It's getting too complex and ebooks are growing so fast. **It's an urgent problem.**"

> - Christina de Castell, Vancouver PL

"We are looking for the tools to create **true unbundling and interoperability** among the different functions that reside all up and down the stack of the lending model that exists today bundled into many products."

- Jim Loter, Seattle PL

"This is *exactly* the kind of thing that public libraries should be doing: identifying discrete problems with tractable solutions, avoiding scope creep, and **engaging** proactively and openly with the vendor community to deliver solutions." - Peter Brantley, *Publisher's Weekly*

Next Steps

Roundtablewit

h 20+ vendors at ALA Midwinter

Product

Guideresource for libraries to help evaluate RF process and compliance

Dialogcontinue

d communication with vendors and libraries – particularly about API standards

Advocacyal

l of you can play a role in your libraries and in your dealings with vendors

