Confusion or Convenience

How can the librarians help the library users to access full text E-Journal articles?
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Duh! It is Online!

... In July 1991, the first edition of the previous directory identified seven peer-reviewed journals online. By the seventh edition in 1997, there were 1,049. In this (2000) volume, there are 3,915 entries for electronic journals.

Most scholarly publishers now provide an electronic version of print journals because the World Wide Web has proven to be a convenient, cost-efficient, and reliable resource.

--Directory of Scholarly Electronic Journals and Academic Discussion Lists, ARL, 2000
So many journals are available electronically now that ARL stopped updating the directory after 2000.
What Librarians Know about e-journals?
What Librarians Know about e-journals?

- There are various places to get full-text articles:
  - From the publishers’ web sites, such as
    - ACS Journals
    - RSC Journals
    - Wiley Journals
  - From databases with full-text links, such as
    - SciFinder Scholar
    - Web of Science
    - Beilstein
What Librarians Know?

- Electronic journal portals such as
  - HighWire Press
  - ScienceDirect
  - JSTOR

- The full-text are rarely free.

- Librarians subscribe to various services to cover more journal contents online within the budget.
What Librarians Know about e-journals?
Do Our users know?
Do Our Library Users Know?

☐ That they can find the links to e-journal titles from the library’s catalog?

☑ Yes. But they don’t want to search the catalog every time they want full text.
Do Our Library Users Know?

☐ That they can directly link to full text articles from the databases such as Scholar?

- Yes.
- But not all the links work
- And librarians maybe don’t want them to know
Do Our Library Users Know?

☐ That sometimes older articles are also available online?

☐ It Depends.

☐ If the “old” issues are at the same source with the newer ones, yes.

☐ If they need to go to other places, most of the times, they will get confused.
For example, Purdue does not have full-text access to Science directly. However, JSTOR and ProQuest Research Library together provide the full text access to Science from volume one to about one year ago.
How can we help?

- **Catalog records**
  - **Advantages:**
    - A central place for “officially” subscribed titles
    - Links will be kept updated
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - Does not include journal titles from other sources, for example, free journals, journal titles come with database subscription
    - User needs to search the catalog every time and sometimes it is tedious to find the right record
How can we help?

- A separate place for e-journals only: TDNet (www.tdnet.com) a electronic journals management system

  - Advantages:
    - Shows various ways to access a journal title
    - Allows you to have your own list of e-journals
  
  - Disadvantages:
    - Users can not tell if an journal entry has full-text or not.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Title</th>
<th>Online Coverage</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Print Holdings</th>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>[EBSCO ( Academic Search Elite FullTEXT)]</td>
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**Science, Technology and Human Values**

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**SCIENCE ACTIVITIES**

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How can we help?

- Chemistry Library has its own e-journal list
  [www.lib.purdue.edu/chem/resources/ejournals.html](http://www.lib.purdue.edu/chem/resources/ejournals.html)
  - It focuses on journal titles that are mostly used by chemists
  - Other titles can also be added per user’s request
  - It is maintained by the chemistry library
Advantages:

- Convenient for users to find journals in chemistry
- Indicate the journals that have full text
- Web statistics show that people are using it
  - August 2000: 173 HPM (hits per month)
  - Aug. 2001: 1195 HPM
  - Aug. 2002: 2522 HPM
  - July 2003: 3926 HPM

Disadvantages:

- Limited to chemistry (related) subjects
- Links are not updated unless notified by the users
How can we help?

☐ Sending email updates, placing notes in the library, etc.
How can we help?

- User instruction sessions
  - Student orientations
  - Class sessions
  - Seminar sessions
  - Reference Desk conversations
  - Teaching users set up e-alert services from publishers or from databases
How “Full Text” works?

- Full text journal articles available through Purdue’s subscription (catalog, TDNet)
- All full text articles (free or for a fee)
- Full text articles that covered in the database (Scholar, Web of Science)
- The full text articles you can get if you only check the full text links in the database
Advantages:
- Reaching out. A more active way.
- Users don’t need to figure it out by themselves
- Users learn the best way to find full-text articles right from the librarians

Disadvantages:
- Can only teach those who come to the instruction session
Conclusion

- Users are willing to use the e-contents if there is less confusion to find them.

- Librarians need to be very creative to help users and market the services.