

March 8, 2021

Revised for public view July 29, 2021

BTAA ILL of Ebooks Task Force Report

Introduction

Based on a proposal of the BTAA ILL Coordinators, the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) library directors tasked a small group to explore how interlibrary lending of ebooks could be improved and expanded within the consortium and eventually beyond. With more of the libraries' monograph acquisitions shifting from print to electronic, it is time to determine how to effectively share these materials. The lending of ebooks continues the long history of sharing materials in support of research and learning as evidenced by the loan of physical materials.

The goals for the task force were to:

1. Promote the sharing of ebooks (including whole ebooks) at BTAA libraries
2. Create common expect^

Accessibility, and IT groups.

This task force was charged in the months immediately before the covid-19 pandemic required a shift from in-person to virtual service and access to collections. This intensifies the existing urgent need to provide for ILL for ebooks. The implications of the pandemic were outside of our charge and are thus not explicitly discussed. That said, the matters addressed in this document are directly related to both the -- hopefully -- exceptional situation presented by r

task force created a vision statement to more

formally frame the driving issues and give guidance to the work. For the future of ebook sharing in academic libraries to be truly standardized h0 d e rgÄ D

including ebooks. The interlibrary loan of ebooks is merely an extension into the digital world of what ILL has been doing with the print resources for decades. A successful shared vision for the interlibrary loan of ebooks will recognize the needs of scholars, libraries, and publishers in providing access at a time of shrinking local bu

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questions in mind as the nature of the BIG

Vendor/License Prioritization

The task force recommends prioritizing ebook lending language negotiations for licenses based on several factors:

- BTAA centrally licensed resources (that contain ebooks)
- With vendors who have accepted ebook lending license language for BTAA Libraries
- Large vendors or large ebook packages

Resources

The BTAA currently provides licensing support through the “[Library Initiatives Standardized Agreement Language](#).”

- Consider providing automated (machine generated) OCR and/or other accessibility improvements to ILL documents. For example, several BTAA Libraries are using ABBYY FineReader server to automatically add machine generated OCR to their ILL documents. Auto-OCR of course doesn't mean a document is completely accessible or accurate, but it helps (and allows all users to search within a PDF!).
- Include accessibility information on ILL cover sheets and/or in ILL emails - particularly how users can obtain an accessible/more accessible document due to a disability. Some libraries offer an on-demand accessibility remediation service, partner with their student disability services offices, outsource remediation requests to third-party accessibility companies, or have other procedures to help ensure accessible materials for their users. See Appendix E.
- Including accessibility license language in agreements with vendors and publishers. [BTAA model accessibility license language for e-resources](#) is available, as [are alternatives to help libraries negotiate with vendors](#).
- Members of the BTAA Library E-Resource Accessibility Group and the BTAA ILL Group can provide more information and resources.

Appendices

A. Task Force Charge

BTAA ILL of EBooks Task Force

The Big Ten Academic A m

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Within one year, the group should draft a report that will go first to the BTAA ILL Coordinators, Electronic Resource Officers, E-Resource Accessibility, and IT groups for review and refinement, then to the BTAA Library Directors for discussion and approval of recommendations.

B. Task Force Vision Statement

BTAA ILL Ebook Task Force Vision

Name

Please include your name so we may follow up as needed.

Email address

Please include your email address so we may follow up as needed.

Institution

Indiana University
Northwestern University
Michigan State University
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Rutgers University
University of Chicago
University of Illinois UC
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Big Ten Academic Alliance
Add option

Publisher/Vendor (ex. Elsevier)

Platform (ex. ScienceDirect)

Contract effective dates (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy)

Contract mentions eBooks in the ILL language?

_ Yes
_ No
_ Other
_ Add option

Does the contract allow full eBooks or just chapters?

_ Full eBooks
_ eBook chapters
_ Other
_ Add option

ILL language

Copy and paste exact language, unless prohibited by confidentiality agreements between your institution and the vendor.

Notes

Provide additional information about ILL eBooks language in contract (e.g. negotiation involved, DRM requirements, resistance or willingness from vendor, would you/your library be willing to renegotiate contract for better ILL language, etc.)

D. License Language Examples

These are just two examples of language for licenses that allow ebook lending, and each institution should come up with language that fits their needs.

University of Connecticut:

“Using electronic, paper, or intermediated means, Licensee at its discretion may fulfill occasional requests for the Products from other institutions, a practice commonly called Interlibrary Loan, to the extent permitted under the copyright laws of the United States. For the avoidance of doubt, electronic books are among the Products governed by this provision, and requests for whole ebooks may be fulfilled on this occasional basis by Licensee.”

University of Minnesota:

“Licensee may fulfill requests from other institutions, a practice commonly called Interlibrary Loan. Licensee agrees to fulfill such requests in compliance with [Sections 108 of the United States Copyright Act](#). Electronic books are among the Licensed Materials governed by this provision, and regardless of statutory provisions or interpretation, Licensors agree that requests for whole ebooks may be fulfilled by Licensee.”

E. Accessibility and ILL

Accessibility Language for ILL Cover Sheet:

Accessibility: If you have questions or need a more accessible version of this document, please contact [xxxx@xxx.edu](#) or call xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Example: [Purdue ILL Cover Sheet with Accessibility Statement](#)

Accessibility Remediation Service & General Accessi

F. Task Force Members

- John Blosser, Head of Acquisitions, Northwestern, convener (jblosser@northwestern.edu)
- Alison Davis, Head of Access Services, Purdue (lampley@purdue.edu)
- Heidi Schroeder, Accessibility Coordinator, Michigan State (hschroed@msu.edu)
- Melissa Levine, Director, Copyright Office, Michigan (mslevine@umich.edu)
- Paul Swanson, Director of Technology/Minitex, Minnesota (swans062@umn.edu)