

University of Nebraska at Omaha

From the Selected Works of James T. Shaw

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The Electronic Academic Library: Licensing Resources Versus Ownership and Implications for Access

James T. Shaw



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UNIVERSITY OF
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**The Electronic Academic Library:
Licensing Resources Versus Ownership
and Implications for Access**

**Jim Shaw, Collections Coordinator
Criss Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha**

**Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON)
Annual Meeting, October 17, 2020**

- Criss Library's print collection of books 700,000
 - Mid-1990s: purchased over 12,000 print books annually
 - 2020 - ?: purchase about 4,000 print books annually

- ProQuest / EBSCO eBooks 861,600

- eBooks in historical primary source collections:
 - Early English Books Online 145,700
 - Eighteenth Century Collections Online 184,335
 - Early American Imprints 38,500
 - Sabin Americana 38,000 406,535

- Total eBooks 1,268,135

- Total books 1,968,135

- Use of print collection had already considerably declined. Will it rebound after COVID-19?

- Periodical subscriptions in paper (journals, magazines, newspapers)
 - Mid-1990s: 3,500
 - 2020: 137
- Periodicals in library databases
 - Mid-1990s: fewer than 5,000 (LexisNexis, Expanded Academic Index, etc.)
 - 2020: over 100,000 (EBSCO, ProQuest, JSTOR, direct to publishers, etc.)
 - 2020: University of Nebraska now has accounts with the Big Five academic journal publishers (Elsevier, SAGE, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Wiley)
 - The Big Five cost the libraries about \$5,500,000 annually.
- But wait, there's more! Library databases also encompass:
 - Market and industry research (IBISWorld, Mintel)
 - Streaming media (Kanopy, Digital Theatre Plus, Classical Music Online)
 - Historical collections (Indigenous Peoples: North America, U.S. Congressional Serial Set)
 - UNO Criss Library list of databases:
 - <https://libguides.unomaha.edu/az.php>

The electronic university library offers a vast collection of resources, but...

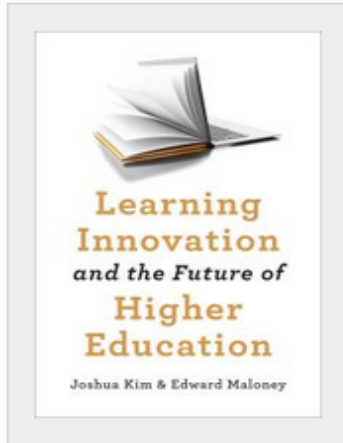
- When the library purchases an eBook, eSubscription, or database, it does not purchase ownership. Instead, it purchases a license which permits use according to parameters set in the agreement with the vendor/publisher. License stipulations affect access.
- Off-campus access restricted to current faculty, students, and staff of the university. Most electronic resources may be used on-site, but not all.
- There is hazard in committing large sums of money to large publishers' packages. Package purchases provide leverage to acquire more access, but cutting a package may amplify loss.
 - University of California and Elsevier journals
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Elsevier journals
 - [SPARC Big Deal Cancellation Tracking](#)

A closer look at
licenses for eBooks

This eBook is fairly
typical

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Kim, Joshua; Maloney, Edward J.



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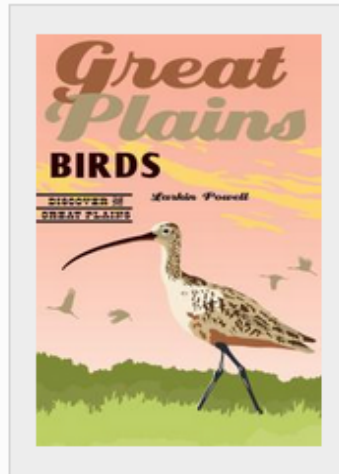
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Great Plains Birds

Powell, Larkin



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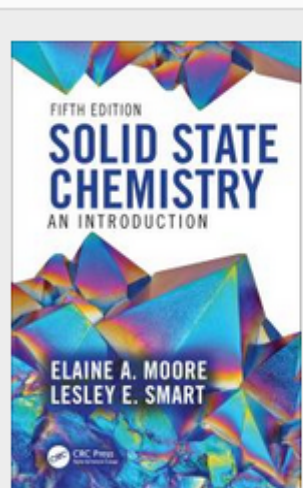
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The world today...

- The electronic academic library offers a wide and deep array of resources. In many cases the extent was almost unimaginable even a few years ago.
- Licenses govern access, so current students, faculty, and staff have convenient access. Others, not so much.
- Potential volatility: when an electronic resource is cancelled, all access may be lost. Tying up large amounts of money in only a few resources may reduce flexibility to address tight budgets.
- Distinctions between haves and have-nots perhaps even more evident in the electronic era.

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Presentation slides posted at the UNO Digital Commons:
<https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu>
(look for me in the SelectedWorks Gallery)

Author's site:
<https://works.bepress.com/jamestshaw/>



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