Modernising the Offering -

e-books and e-audio…

Martin Palmer
Principal Officer: Libraries
Essex County Council
NSA: Re-modelling Library Services 1 July 2010

Modernising the Offering…

Proposal 33: Government recommends that libraries assess the opportunity and demand for e-book lending in their community, and develop strategies.

E-books will:

- Enable library services to remain relevant…

And will provide:

- A new opportunity to reach people who may not visit their local library building regularly…

Modernising the Offering…

Downloads (e.g. Overdrive): Downloading schemes are currently the most common form of e-book supply from libraries. The user enters their library card number and a unique PIN code for access. Users are able to read the book on e-book readers which are not networked (e.g. Sony e-reader) by downloading onto them. The scheme employs DRM (digital rights management), so the file destroys itself after 3 weeks. Files employ a single user access model but if multiple licenses (i.e. copies) are bought they can be borrowed concurrently, each on a single user basis.

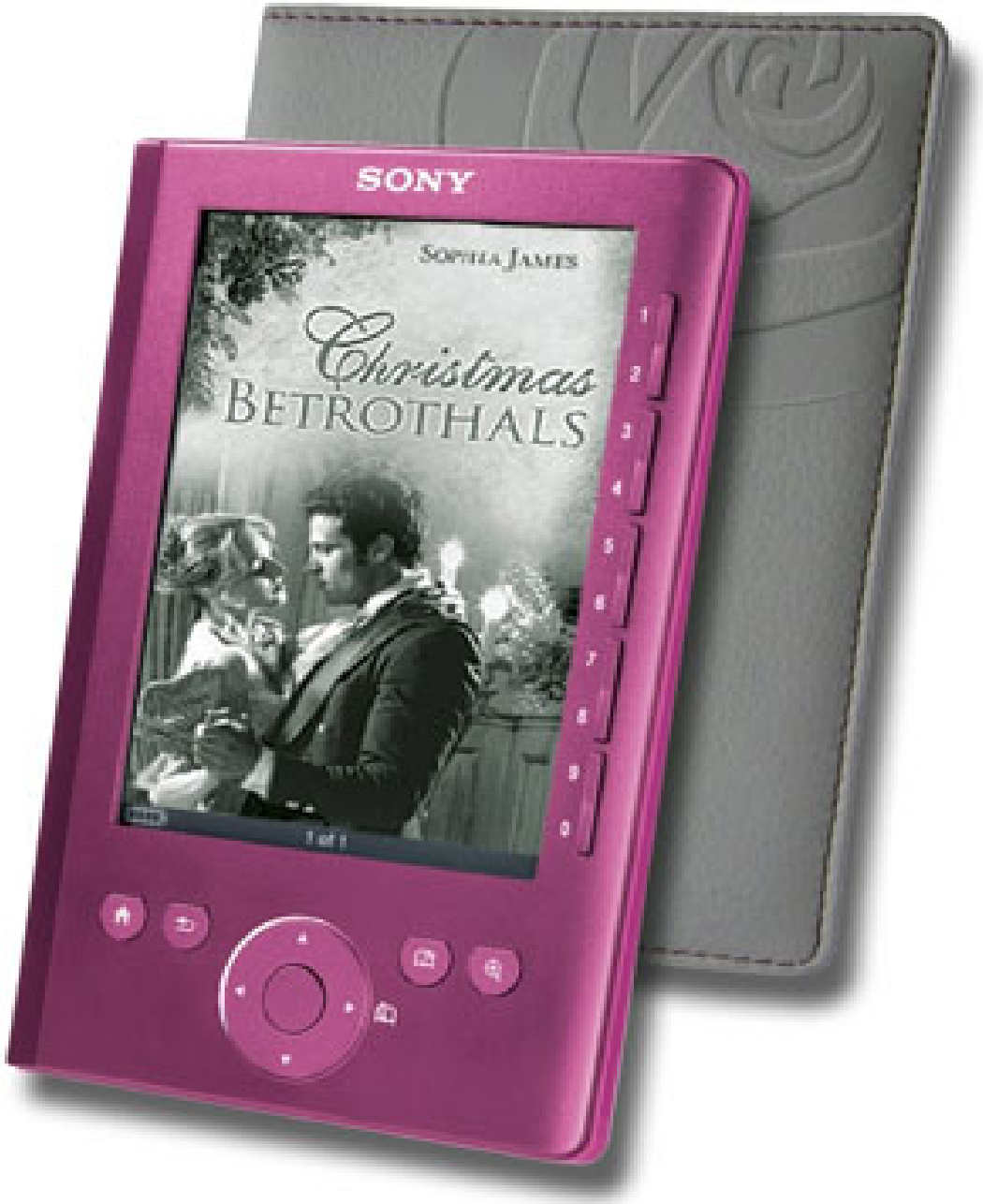
Modernising the Offering…

Online access (e.g. Bloomsbury): Online arrangements for e-book lending are less common at present. E-books are not 'lent' in the traditional way and not downloaded – these e-books are accessed online as if they were a reference work via the same password system as for e-book downloads. The library service pays a subscription based on population, which allows multiple user access to the copy when they are online. It is limited by the quality of the network connection the user has which will determine whether they have an uninterrupted link when reading. Currently e-book readers are not networked, so cannot be used to access these e-books but it may become popular as more networked devices (eg the iPad) become more prevalent.

Oh! - you mean *that* kind of e-book...

- A device?
- Content?
- Both?

- Download ?
- Online?
- Both?



EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Essex County Council

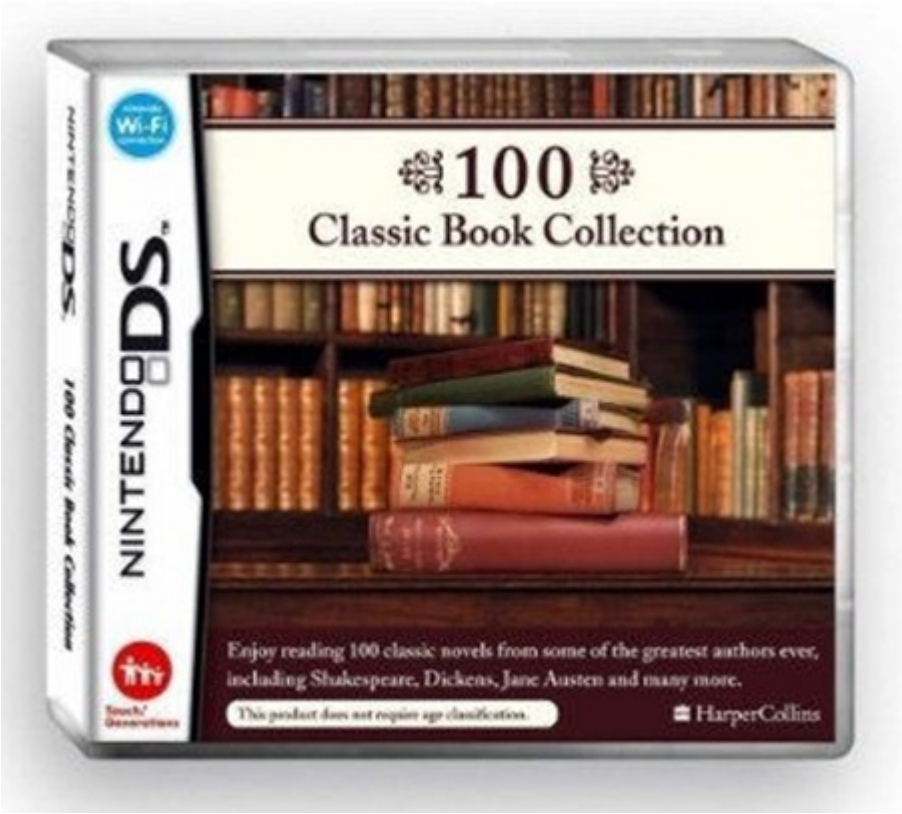
EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Essex County Council

EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life



Essex County Council

EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Essex County Council

EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Essex County Council

EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Essex County Council

Not to mention e-audio...

E-books reaching critical mass…?

- **e-book sales in US overtake sales of audio books**
- **e-book Sales Jumped 252% in First Quarter**
- **Academic publishers seeing strong growth from e-book sales**
- **More than 700,000 e-books sold through Waterstone's**

Who's using e-books… and why?

- All kinds of people, for all kinds of reasons…

- People reading for pleasure
- People reading for study/research

- People who need remote access…
- People who need mobile access…
- People who can't use print…

AOL 9.1 - Connected, Signed-On - [The Suspicions of Mr Whicher]
File Edit Email Community Services Safety Window Keyword Sign Off Help
Read Write IM People News Settings Music Money Pictures Sport Celebrity Games Weather Film
Welcome http://www.exacteditions.com/exact/browse/537/770/5061/3/25?dps Go Search the Web Search
PUBLIC LIBRARY · ONLINE ·
home | about | feedback | logout
Essex, Southend and Thurrock Libraries
Home » Reading Group Shelf » The Suspicions of Mr Whicher » Browse
printable pdf
page: XXIII go all search

Whicher, at forty-five, was the doyen of the Metropolitan force – 'the prince of detectives', said a colleague. He was a stout, scuffed man with a delicate manner, 'shorter and thicker-set' than his fellow officers, Dickens observed, and possessed of 'a reserved and thoughtful air, as if he were engaged in deep arithmetical calculations'. His face was pitted with smallpox scars. William Henry Wills, Dickens' deputy at his magazine *Household Words*, saw Whicher in action in 1850. His account of what he witnessed was the first published description of Whicher, indeed of any

People with a visual impairment...

‘It’s what the internet was invented for…’

And - with *some* e-books...

- An on-line, simultaneous multi-user access e-book provider can make

  – thousands of titles available to
  – *everybody* who needs them
  – at the same time
  – *24/7*

But...

- Formats and Digital Rights Management (DRM)
- Platforms…
- Bibliographic control and cataloguing
- Library Management System…
- Authentication…
- Security…
- Council ICT departments…
- Promotion
- Enhanced e-books?
- Money…?

Money…

- Some e-services *can* be a more efficient and effective approach than print…
- Some others may be seen as yet another format competing for diminishing budget…
- However, how else can libraries serve those audiences…?

Competition…

Google

Mission Statement:

To organise the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful…

Nevertheless...

- New audiences… who are beginning to expect e-material
- Growing range of material…
- Growing number of suppliers...
- Some answers to long-standing stock management questions
- 24/7 access…
- *Some* focusing of formats/standards…
- .epub and the iPad…
- And more…?

One service's current experience...

- Essex:
  - Downloads: 1000 + per month
  - On-line access: 80,000 'loans' per annum
  - Pre-publication waiting list for e-book download of Dan Brown's 'The Lost Symbol'...