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"I wouldn't start from here." Overcoming barriers to accessing online content in libraries

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## "I wouldn't start from here"

Overcoming barriers to accessing online content in libraries

Dave Pattern Library Systems Manager University of Huddersfield d.c.pattern@hud.ac.uk http://daveyp.com/blog/

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Photo of Joseph Janes at UKSG 2009.

At the 2009 conference, I ranted about OPACs and how much they sucked

#### The Wisdom of Crowds





Looking for comments for my UKSG presentation. If you could wave a magic wand to improve one thing about e-resources, what would it be? Ta!

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# The Wisdom of Crowds "if you could improve one thing..."



- 1. Authentication
- 2. Ease of access
- 3. Discoverability
- 4. Affordability
- 5. No DRM
- 6. Licensing

With thanks to:
@matt\_borg, @alanfricker,
@nicoleharris, @Girlinthe,
@damyantipatel, @chriskeene,
@Prossian, @daveparkes,
@beersoft, @sdb, @iharvel,
@benelwell, @liz\_jolly,
@brinxmat, @Library Claire,
@redgirl13, @Marie\_LSJ,
@librarygirl79, @fleming77,
@walkyouhome, @suzimethinks,
@lukask, @mcbjazz,
@katie\_fraser, @DebbieMN,
@daviddclay, @terrybucknell,
@ArawnC & @ahornby

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The most common themes in replies to the tweet question

#### Contents



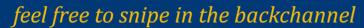
32 Short Presentations about E-Resources

- Introduction
- The Trouble with E-Resources
- The Impact of a Discovery Service
- Stinky Library Web Sites
- Serendipity in a Virtual World
- Library Impact Data Project

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I felt the presentation would be too long with the "Stinky Library Web Sites" section, which was mostly a big plug for Matthew Reidsma's excellent presentation, so I chopped it out

#### **Twitter**

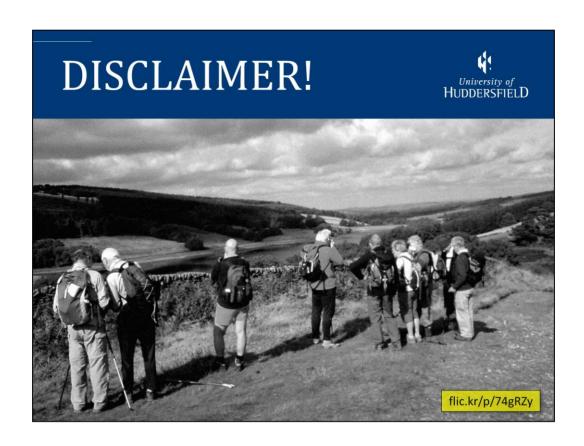




# #UKSGLIVE @daveyp

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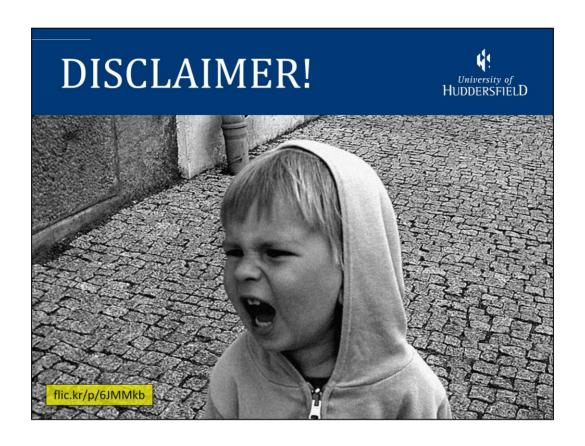
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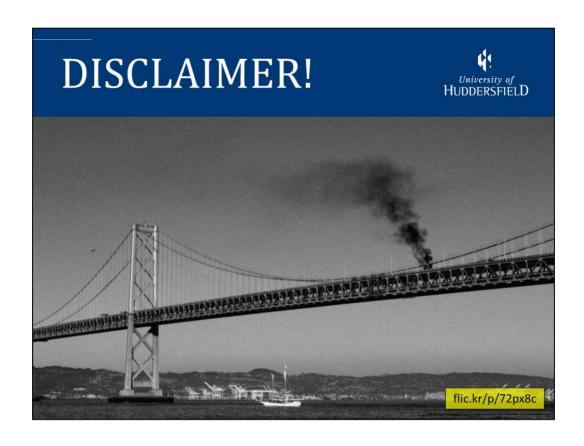
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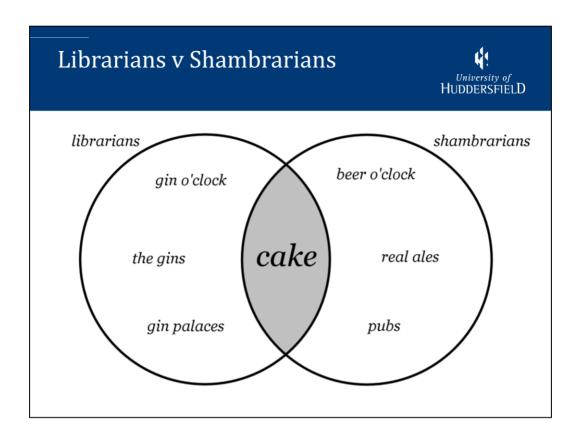
http://www.flickr.com/photos/pkingdesign/3954049381/



@ggnewed and @Jo\_Bo\_Anderson at LibraryCamp

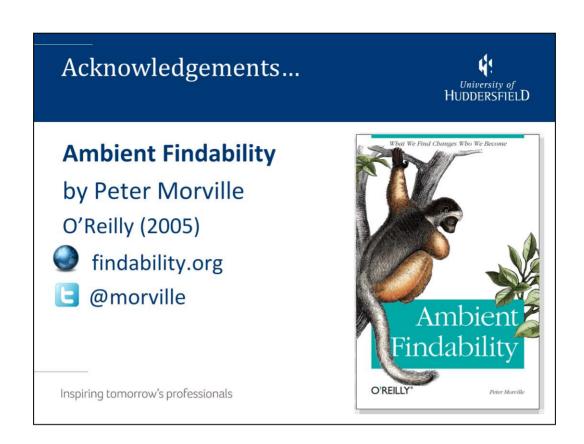


Me no librarian



http://www.daveyp.com/blog/archives/1577

Cake is the ultimate intersection



Spookily odd that Dave Parkes also talked about "Ambient Findability" in his UKSG session :-D



I was going to rant about poor library web site design hindering access to eresources, but Matthew did it far more eloquently than I ever could

http://matthew.reidsrow.com/articles/16



I snaffled a couple of quotes from Ken's UCISA presentation

http://www.kenchadconsulting.com/http://www.kenchadconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Transforming\_LibrarySystems\_Ken\_Chad\_UCISA\_March2012.pdf

# CONSPIRACY THEORIES

### **CONSPIRACY THEORY #1**

#### MARC21

 The primary purpose of the complex punctuation rules in MARC21 seems to be to ensure that you can still produce perfect printed catalogue index cards...

...why is that?

...what are the cataloguers up to?

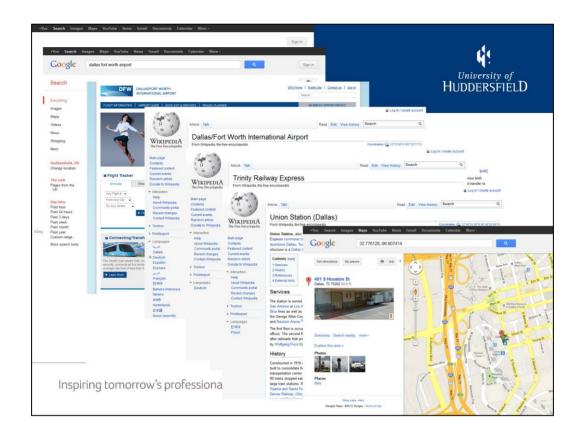
18

#### **CONSPIRACY THEORY #2**

#### Why are we trying to turn our users into mini-librarians?

 Thou shalt not use yonder library until thou hast the understanding of...

abstracts, Boolean operators, classmarks, Dewey Decimal, electronic resources, folios, grey literature, holds, indexes, journals, keywords, loan periods, monographs, non-fiction, overdues, periodicals, quartos, recalls, stacks, truncation, union catalogues, volumes,



An example of how finding information on Google and Wikipedia is sometimes easier than using the "proper" web site – in this case, I struggled to find out how to get from the airport to Dallas on the airport's web site, but easily found the info (and much more) on Wikipedia. In particular, the terminology on the airport web site ("ground transportation") didn't mean anything to me.

# Google and Wikipedia ...why?



- Simple, familiar and easy to use
- Finds me the things I need most of the time without me having to...
  - log in in to anything
  - use the advanced search page
  - use any of that weird Boolean stat...stuff

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Wasn't sure I swearing (or dissing Boolean) was allowed at UKSG ;-P

## Principle of Least Effort aka "the path of least resistance"



"...an information [seeker] will tend to use the most convenient search method, in the least exacting mode available. Information seeking behaviour stops as soon as minimally acceptable results are found."

en.wikipedia.org

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Students don't use Google and Wikipedia because they're lazy, they use them because it's instinctive to seek the shortest, easiest route from A to B

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle\_of\_least\_effort

#### Principle of Least Effort



"Why will our students not get up and walk a hundred meters to access a key journal article in the library? ... the overwhelming propensity of most people is to invest as absolutely little effort into information seeking as they possibly can."

 Prof Marcia J. Bates ("Toward an Integrated Model of Information Seeking & Searching", 2002)

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Prof Marcia J. Bates
Dept. of Information Studies
University of California, Los Angeles

http://pages.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/bates/articles/info\_SeekSearch-i-030329.html

http://pages.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/bates/

#### Principle of Least Effort



"...numerous studies have shown users are often willing to sacrifice information quality for accessibility. This fast food approach to information consumption drives librarians crazy. 'Our information is healthier and tastes better too' they shout."

- Peter Morville ("Ambient Findability", 2005)

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ISBN: 0596007655 http://findability.org/

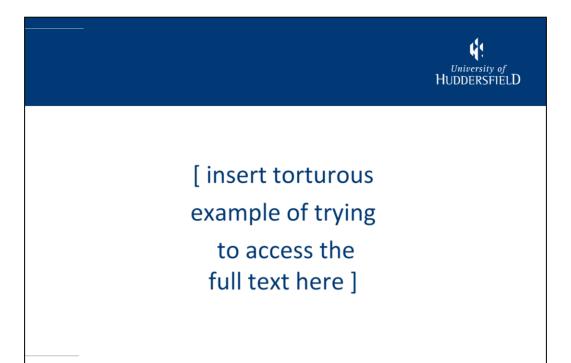
http://shop.oreilly.com/product/9780596007652.do



I wanted to grab some tweets of students saying they were using Wikipedia for the essays, homework, etc. Then, without warning, the whole of Wikipedia went down for 20 minutes and lots of panicky tweets appeared.



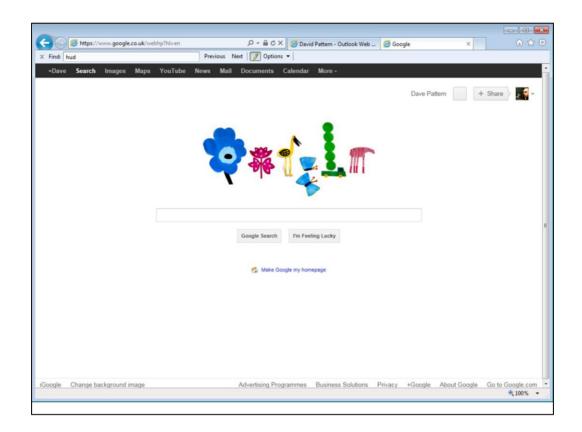
http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070604005438AAnA6sg



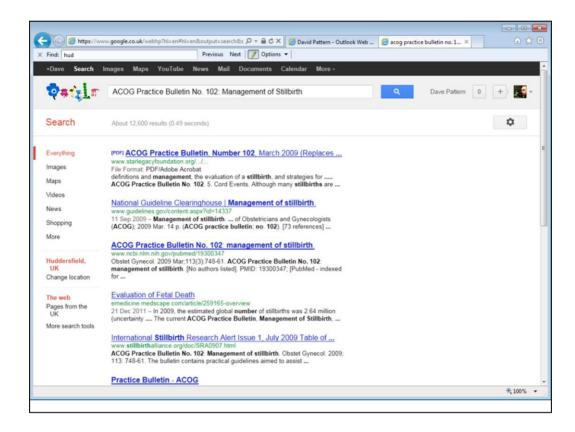
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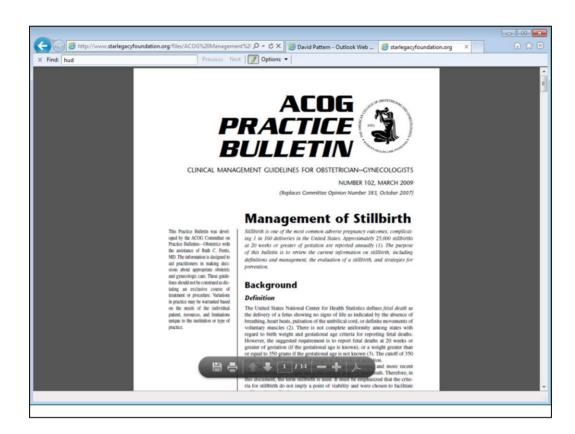
I've snipped out approx 25 slides of screenshots that showed a real life example of trying to get to the full-text, which ultimately ended with being asked to pay \$59 even though we were under the impression we had a valid subscription. As I wasn't having a go specifically at any of the publishers & vendors who sites appeared in them, I didn't think it was worthwhile leaving the screenshots in this public version.





... Meanwhile, back in the real (i.e. non-library world), I was able to easily find the article the student was after via Google





#### **CONSPIRACY THEORY #3**

# We don't want our users to be able to access our e-resources

- We erect multiple barriers between the user and the full-text
- We place booby traps designed to confuse and frustrate
- We ensure that every interface is different

•••

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## **CONSPIRACY THEORY #3**

# We don't want our users to be able to access our e-resources

Our motto is: "Nothing worthwhile is easy.
Know that when you succeed in
accomplishing your most challenging goals,
you will experience the greatest selfsatisfaction."

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Sadly, I've been in a meeting where a librarian essentially said that eresources should be difficult to use as it teaches students that somehow effort equates to quality:-S

#### Answers on a postcard, please...



"As early as 2004, in a focus group for one of my research studies, a college freshman bemoaned, 'Why is Google so easy and the library so hard?'"

Carol Tenopir, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 ("Visualize the Perfect Search", Library Journal, 2009)

libraryjournal.com

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Carol Tenopir (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6639354.html?industryid=47130

Via Ken Chad http://www.kenchadconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Transforming\_LibrarySystems\_Ken\_Chad\_UCISA \_March2012.pdf

### "The Next Generation of Discovery"



"The challenge for academic libraries [...] is to offer an experience that has the simplicity of Google."

- Judy Luther & Maureen C. Kelly (Library Journal, 2011)

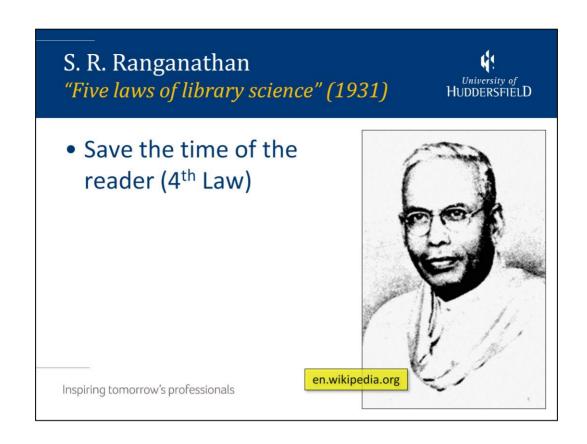
libraryjournal.com

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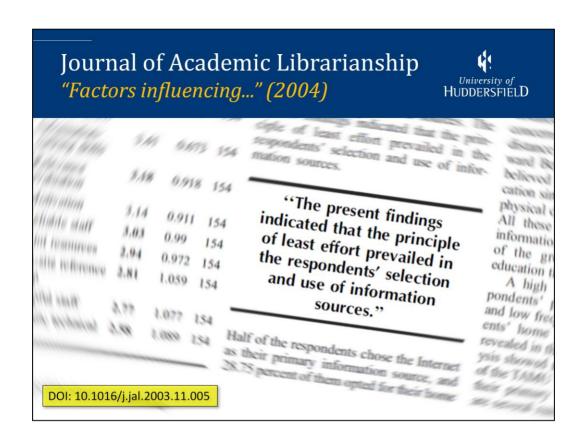
Judy Luther & Maureen C. Kelly

http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/ljinprintcurrentissue/889250-403/the\_next\_generation\_of\_discovery.html.csp

Via Ken Chad http://www.kenchadconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Transforming\_LibrarySystems\_Ken\_Chad\_UCISA \_March2012.pdf



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\_laws\_of\_library\_science



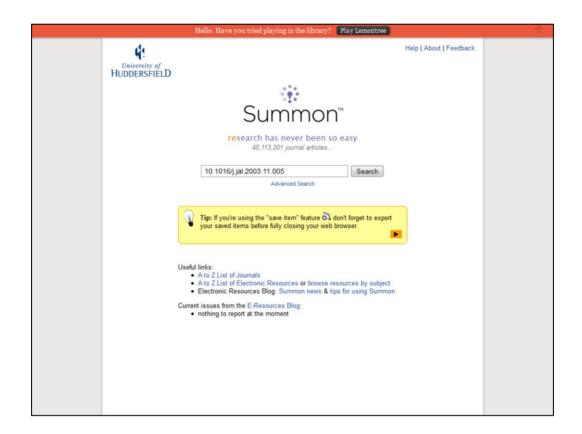
"Factors Influencing Distance-Education Graduate Students' Use of Information Sources: A User Study"

Zao Liu and Zheng Ye (Lan) Yang

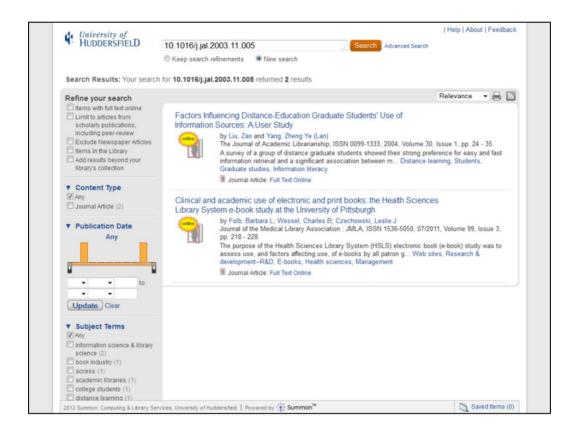
The Journal of Academic Librarianship

Volume 30, Issue 1, January 2004, Pages 24-35

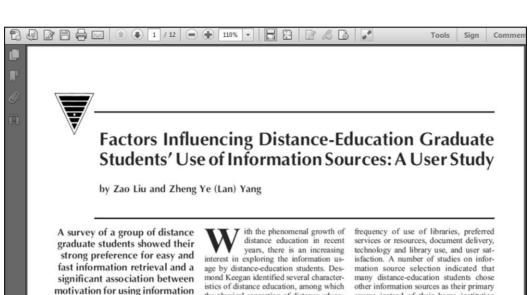
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jal.2003.11.005



A quick example of how easy it can be to get to the full-text when the eresources gods are smiling on you...







and field of study. Motivation and field of study also explained differences in primary information source selection and use of home institution libraries.

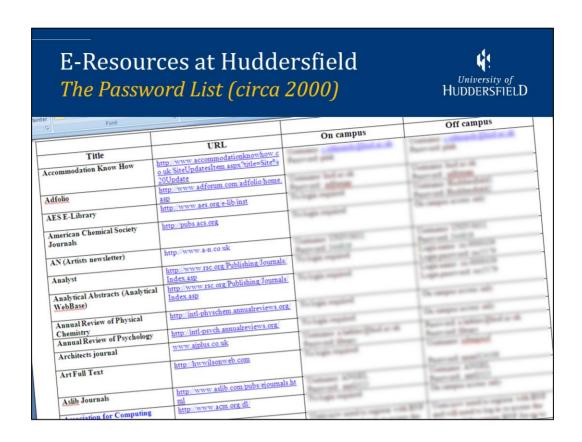
the physical separation of distance-education students from their instructors and absence of a learning group during the learning process were very salient. Given these fundamental differences, questions arise on the special information needs and trends in information usage by distanceeducation students. Previous user studies have shown a pattern of underutilization of home institution libraries by distanceeducation students. Convenience has often been cited as the primary reason for choosing other information sources. This intriguing phenomenon reflects the princi-

source instead of their home institution libraries. Karen E. Jaggers, Eve M. Tall-man, and William D. Waddell investigated the library services to distance-education students of Northern Arizona University. Among all sources available, more students used the instructor-provided materials than any other source. Melinda Stasch's survey revealed that the public library was used most often by the respondents.<sup>4</sup> Stasch noted that while the respondents depended on public and academic libraries for books and journals most of the time, they used





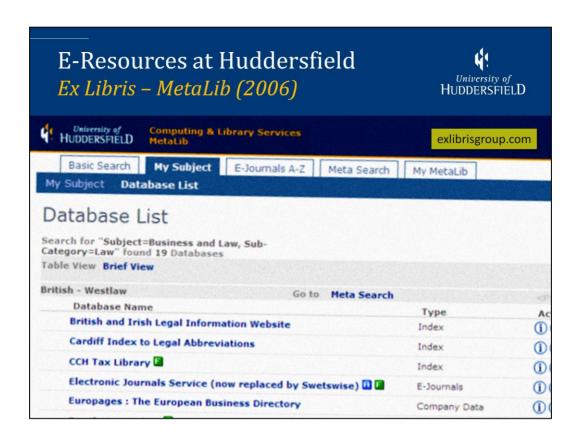
Slide from Tony Hirst's "A105 - Visionary Views" session at ILI2010



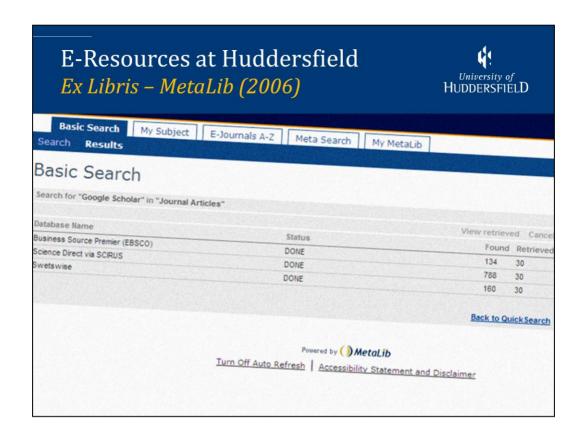
A quick recap of how far Huddersfield has progressed in its e-resource provision in just a decade...



http://www.onelog.com/



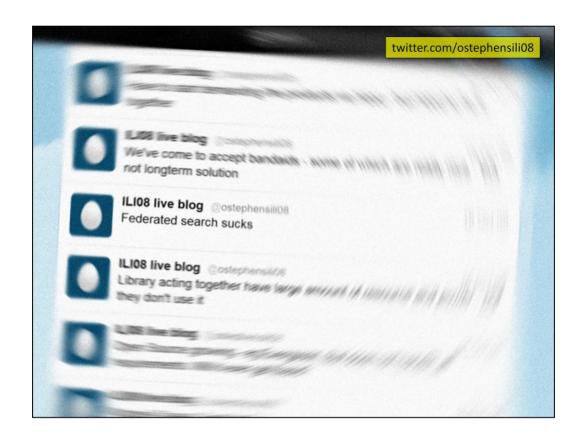
http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/MetaLibOverview



http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/MetaLibOverview



But the trouble with federated search is that it's slow, buggy, and you've no idea if you're getting relevant results :-S

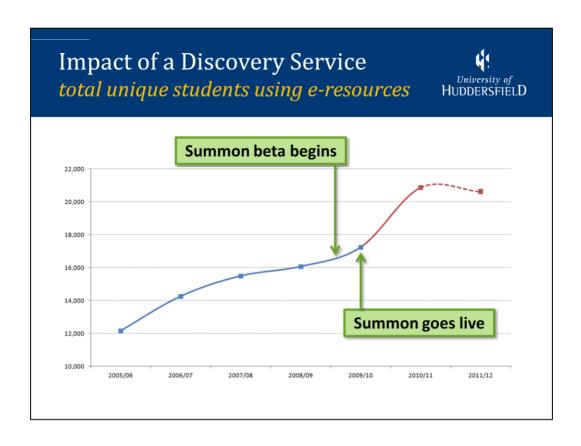


Owen Stephen's live tweets from ILI2008

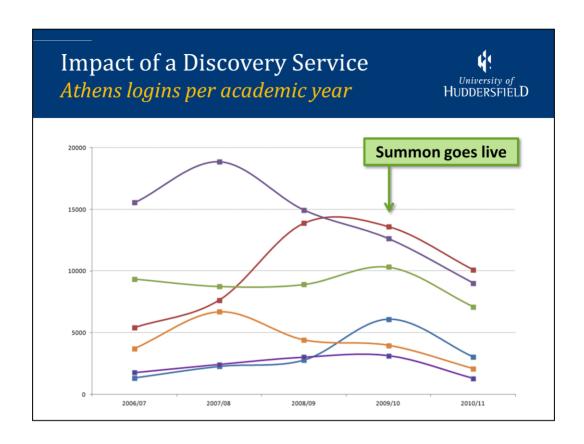
https://twitter.com/ostephensili08/status/962494419



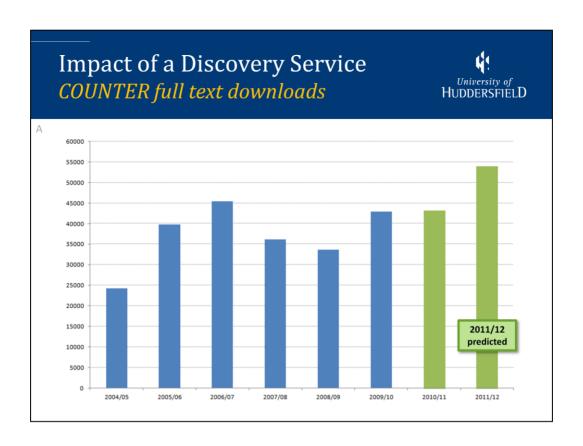
http://www.serialssolutions.com/en/services/summon/



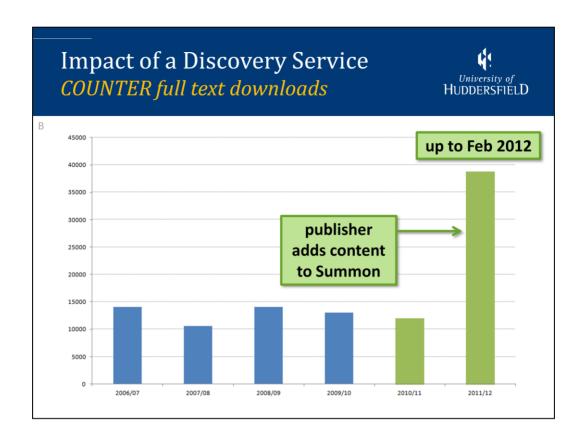
I'd guesstimate that we've had a total of 20k to 22k students during this period. The total started to plateau with MetaLib (I know of a few instances where academic were telling their students not to use it), but has surged since we implemented Summon and we're approaching 100% usage.



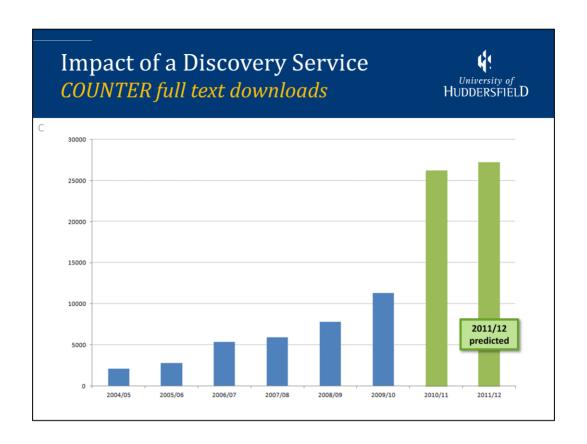
Since launching Summon, we've seen a decrease in the number of students go directly to the database's native interface and logging in via Athens.



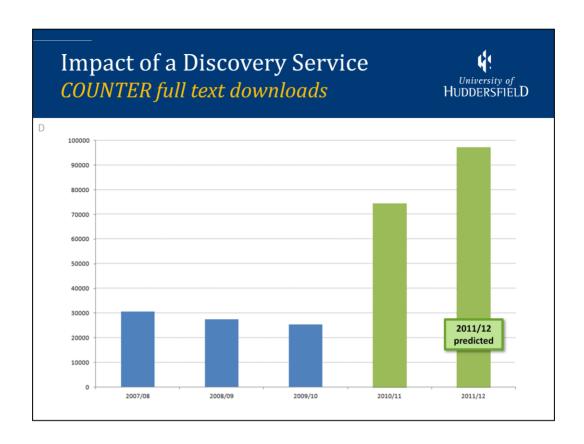
This is a subject resource that students are specifically told to use. They're still using it, but other students are starting to discover content on it via Summon.

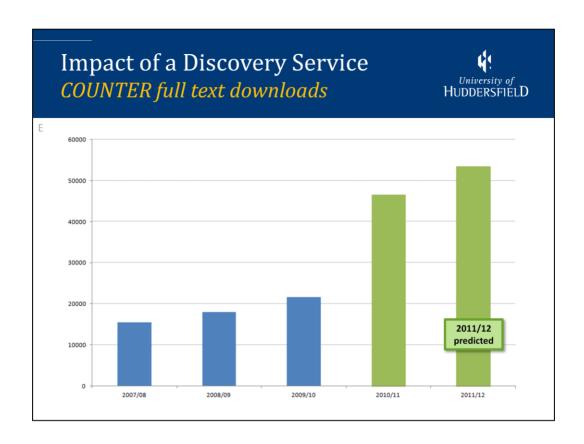


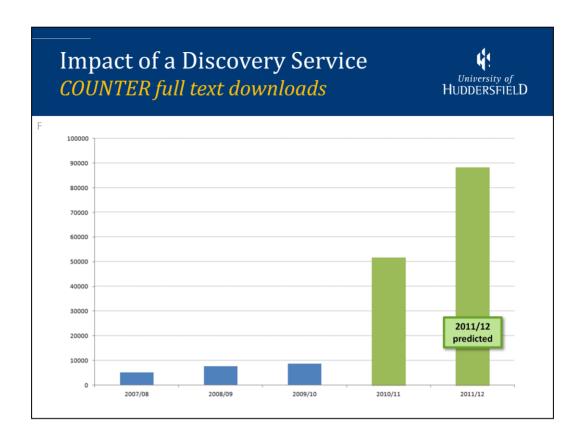
Publisher's content wasn't in Summon in 2010/11. Download stats are for 2011/12 are for up to Feb 2012, so I'd expect to see much higher usage by the end of the academic year.

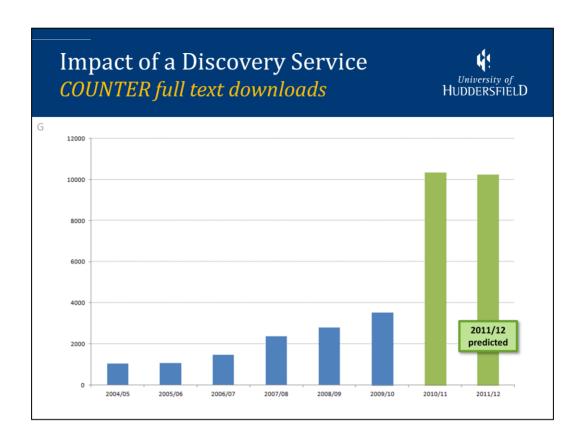


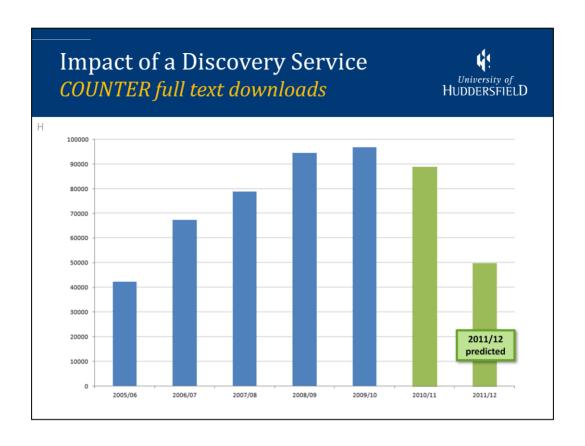
Journal publisher platform. In general, we've seen 300%+ increases in article downloads, primarily driven by click thrus from Summon searches



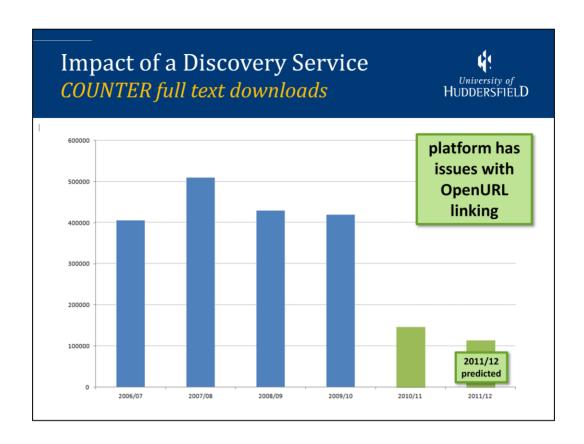




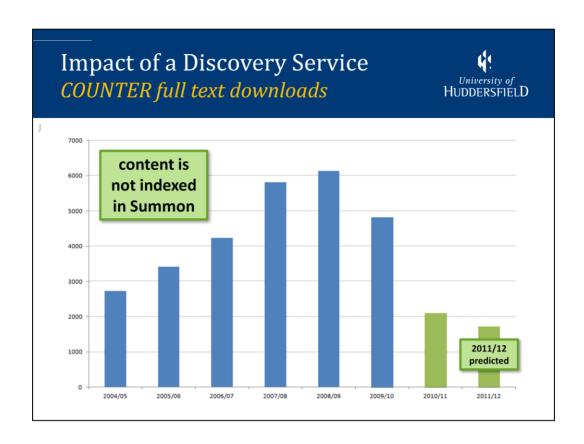




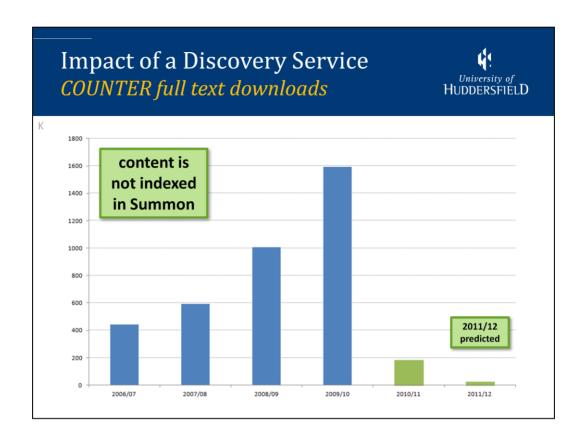
Journal publisher platform. In this case, it's a resource that students were told was the only one they needed (hence the high usage). Since we got Summon, those students are now finding content elsewhere.



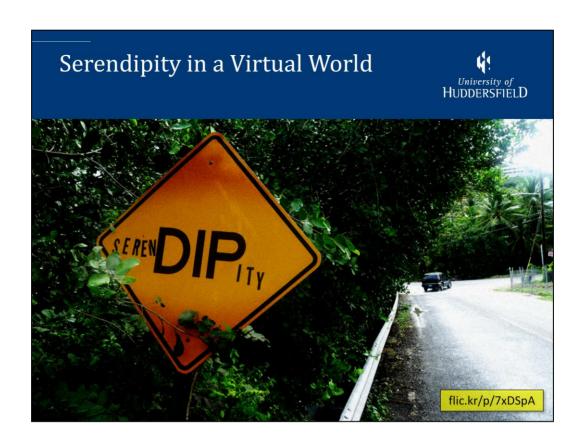
Aggregated journal platform. We know this platform has issues with OpenURL linking from Summon, and this is reflected in the sudden drop in downloads.



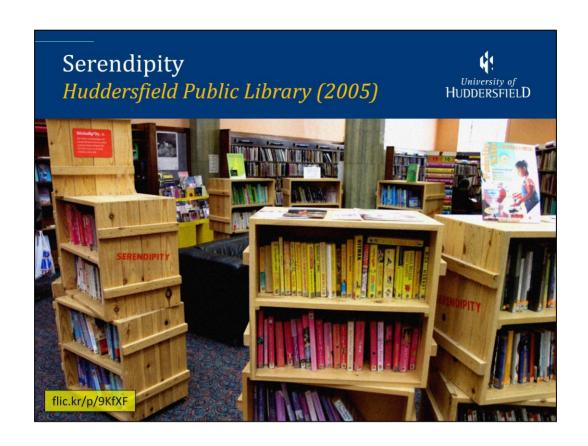
If the publisher's content isn't in Summon, students need to go directly to the database to find it ...and, in general, they're not.



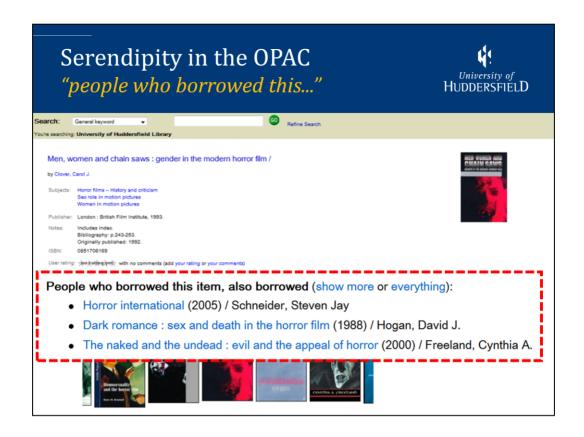
...can you really see us renewing the subscription for this database?



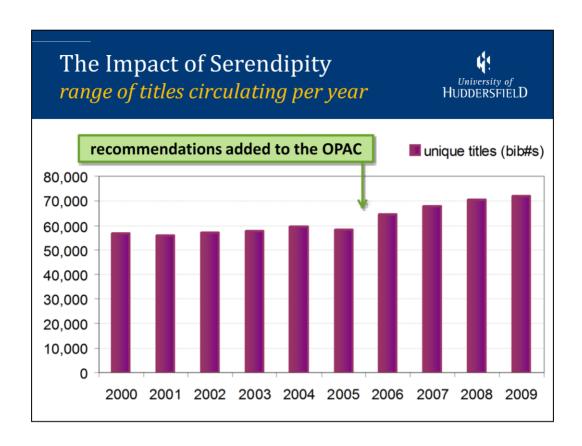
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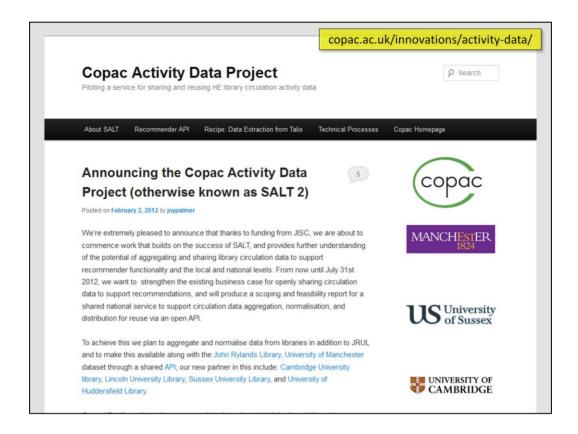
Serendipity in the Huddersfield Public Library Reading Area http://www.flickr.com/photos/organised/98972109/in/photostream/



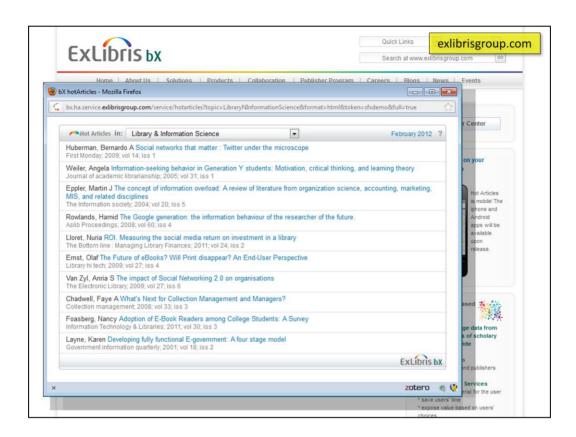
http://www.daveyp.com/blog/archives/1453



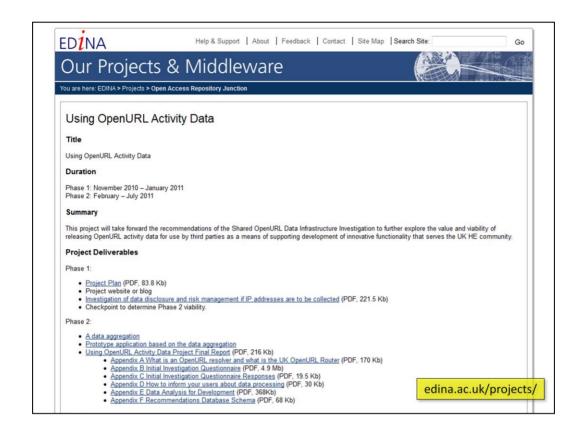
We think adding serendipity to the OPAC has helped to increase the range of stock that circulates every year



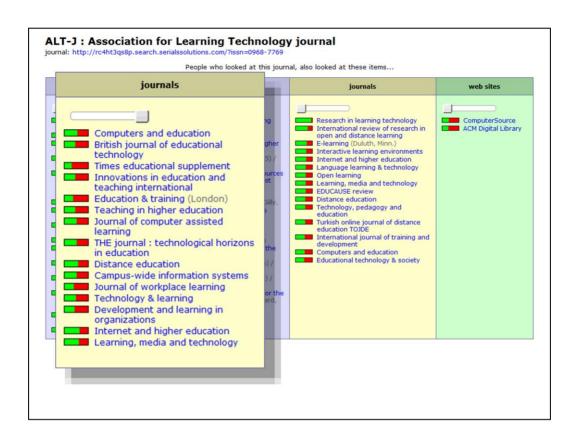
http://copac.ac.uk/innovations/activity-data/



http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/bXUsageBasedServices



http://edina.ac.uk/projects/Using\_OpenURL\_Activity\_data\_summary.html



http://library.hud.ac.uk/australia/perl/test/rec3.pl?item=1612 http://www.daveyp.com/blog/archives/1694 http://www.daveyp.com/blog/archives/1703



# Library Impact Data Project <a href="http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp">http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp</a>



- JISC funded Activity Data project
- Phase 1 (2011)
  - broad analysis of library usage data from 8
     UK HE academic libraries
- Phase 2 (2012)
  - deep analysis of library usage by 2010/11 graduates at Huddersfield

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http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/inf11/activitydata.aspx

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/inf11/activitydata/libraryimpact.aspx

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/di\_informationandlibraries/emergingopportunities/lidpphase2.aspx

# Library Impact Data Project <a href="http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp">http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp</a>



- Phase 1 findings...
  - statistically significant link between graduate grades and item loans, and with e-resource login count
  - in general, library visits and library PC usage not linked to achievement

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http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/inf11/activitydata.aspx

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/inf11/activitydata/libraryimpact.aspx

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/di\_informationandlibraries/emergingopportunities/lidpphase2.aspx

## Library Impact Data Project <a href="http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp">http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp</a>



- Phase 2...
  - using final grade % to prove correlation
  - attempt to prove causation (e.g. value add)
  - attempt to find indicators of academic success or failure
  - examine information seeking behaviour of high achievers

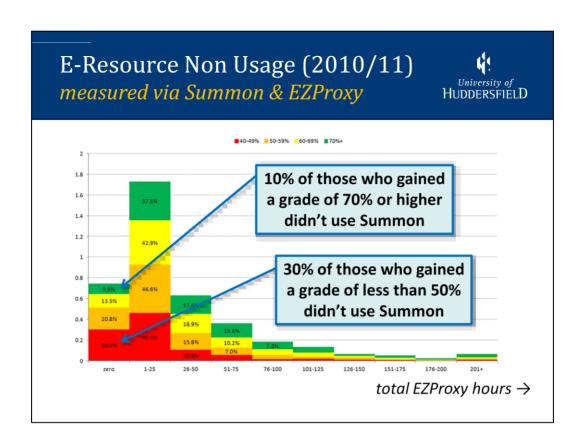
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http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp

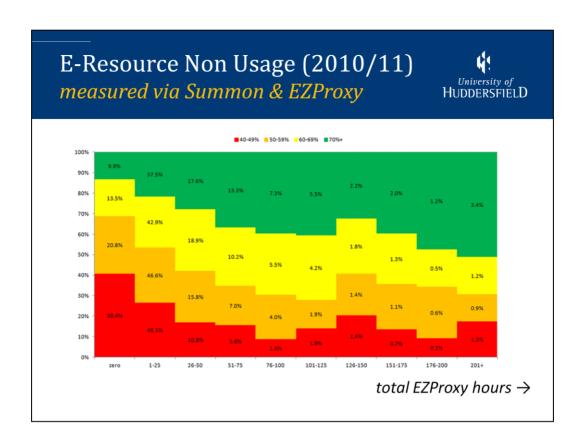
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http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/inf11/activitydata/libraryimpact.aspx

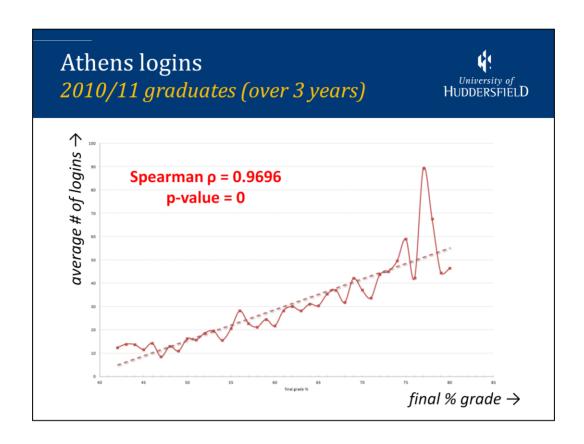
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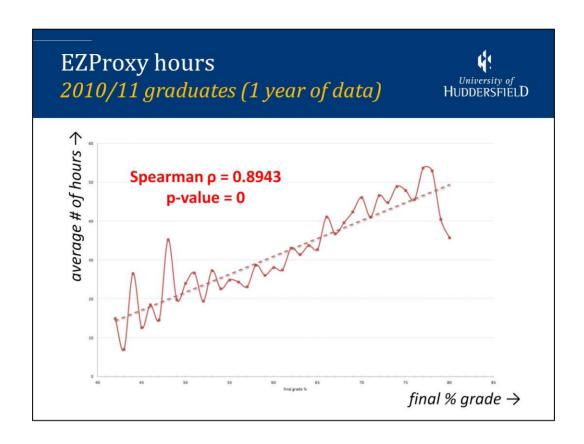


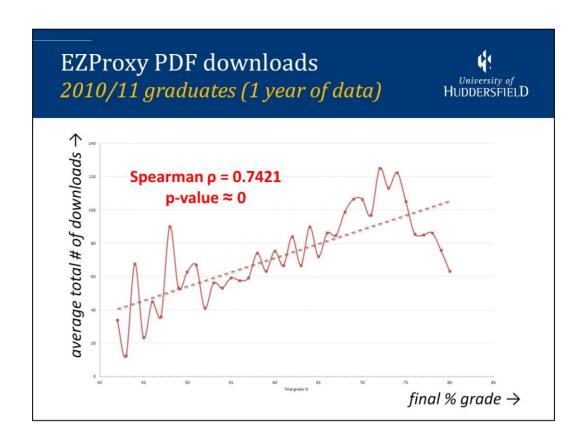
In general, most users are still either not accessing e-resources (1st column) or are accessing them infrequently (1 to 25 hours in the entire year).

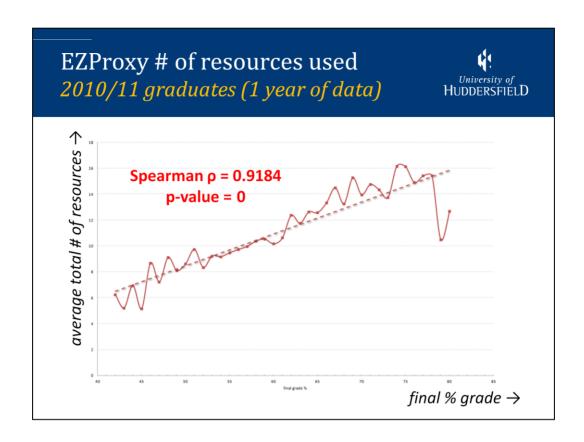


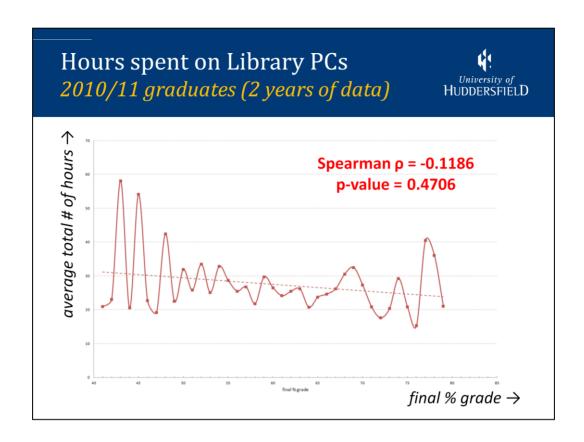
...if we restack the previous graph, you can see that lower usage is more closely linked to lower grades, and higher usage is more closely linked to higher grades



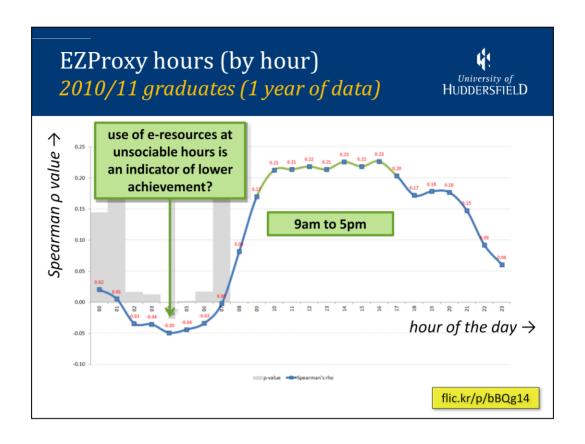








However, we see no evidence that students are using the library PCs to access those e-resources ;-P



We know that there's a correlation between e-resource usage and grade, but the strength of the correlation various by hour of the day. During the early hours, it dips below zero, which indicates a possible negative correlation.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/davepattern/6969060879/in/set-72157629087302688



#### In Summary...



- We need to do whatever we can to make accessing e-resources as painless and as straightforward as searching Google and finding a Wikipedia article
- Information Literacy is important, but it goes against the principle of least effort, so will always be an uphill struggle

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#### In Summary...



- E-resources are linked to attainment
- Publishers need to make their content available to discovery services. This is non-negotiable!!!
- We need to build serendipity into the e-resource experience

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