

Getting Rid of e-Books in the SFX Knowledge Base

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Max Planck Society

Max Planck Society (MPG), <http://www.mpg.de>

- 80 independent research institutes in Germany and abroad organized in 3 scientific sections
- Mission: Basic research in the sciences, arts and humanities
- Total Staff: 12.600
- Research staff: 4.400
- Budget: 1.433 billion Euro



Information Management in the MPG

- About 76 special libraries are located at the Max Planck Institutes (MPIs); many of them are one person libraries.
- In addition, central units - such as the Max Planck Digital Library (MPDL), the Information Retrieval Groups (IVS) and two computer centers (e.g. GWDG) - provide services for the complete society.
- All major activities are accompanied by working groups bringing together representatives from the parties involved, e.g. the **e-books project group**.
- Heterogeneous library approaches have been established over the years. Therefore, neither a union Max Planck library catalog, nor a common integrated library system or cataloging standards exists.
- Thus MPG information management is assembled from a variety of centralized and decentralized services.
- Systems in use:
 - Aleph (used by 33 libraries) = MPG Aleph server
 - MetaLib (central instance): since 2002 = vLib portal
 - SFX (central instance): since 2002 = MPG/SFX link resolver

Overview on e-book resources

Following e-book resources are available in the MPG (08.2008)

| Resource | No. Titles | No. Object Portfolios in SFX KB |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|
| AIP Conference Proceedings | 1050 | 0 |
| Belser „Deutschsprachige Frauenliteratur“ | 850 | 0 |
| IEEE Conference Proceedings | 10.610 | 8.853 |
| NetLibrary, incl. free titles | 4.460 | 4.980 |
| Olms Online | 340 | 0 |
| Oxford Reference Online | 165 | 210 |
| Oxford Scholarship Online | 2.125 | 1.973 |
| Safari TechBooks | 6.048 | 5.327 |
| SourceOECD | 3.200 | 3.057 |
| SPIE Conference Proceedings | 6.500 | 0 |
| Springer Lecture Notes | 4.800 | 4.800 |
| Springer Current Protocols | 410 | 667 |

• **Warning:** now, more than 25% of the MPG e-book collection is missing in the SFX knowledge base (SFX KB).

- The SFX KB includes duplicate entries for books, i.e. one record lists the ISBN, the other one contains the e-ISBN.
⇒ number of portfolios > number of titles
- The number of e-books already exceeds the number of e-journals. Considering the rate of increase, it is not evident that e-book resources can be efficiently maintained with the existing SFX tools and workflows. Example "Selective activation": There is no easy way to activate e-books published after a specific date because the corresponding object portfolios do not include date thresholds.
- Link resolving: SFX does not support full text linking on chapter level.

MPG e-Book Catalog

Background

At the beginning of 2007, an e-book working group was established to bring together interested librarians from various Max Planck Institutes and the MPDL. Besides developing basic principles for purchasing e-book resources the group conceptualized measures to increase the visibility of the existing e-book products.

As a result of these discussions it was decided to build up a dedicated catalog including metadata records for e-books licensed MPG wide. This resource can not only be used as a retrieval instrument by patrons interested in the particular media type, it also serves as back-end system to integrate e-book information into other platforms, e.g. local library catalogs and the vLib portal.

Realization

The MPG Aleph server was chosen as environment for the e-book catalog because the infrastructure was available right away and fulfilled all requirements, and the relevant tools and processes were well known from the beginning.

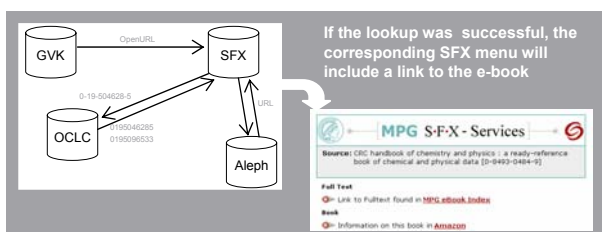
By default, the metadata is requested from the corresponding information provider, but currently not all vendors are able to deliver it in an appropriate format. Consequently, alternative sources will be investigated. To ingest new data, it has to be analyzed and converted into MAB2 which is the internal format of all libraries of the MPG Aleph catalog. Once metadata has been added, continuous updates must be provided.

In August 2008, the catalog included 8774 records in total.

Integration into MPG/SFX

Concept

- Do not maintain e-book resources licensed in the SFX knowledge base only, but add lookup in the e-book index.
- Use OCLC's xISBN service to find other variants of the same title.
- Fetch the resource URL from the e-book catalog at the time a user sends an OpenURL request. The fetch is executed by an SFX plug-in which checks the e-book catalog via Aleph's X-Server.
- Offer the resource URL as full text link in the the MPG/SFX service menu if exactly one record was found in the e-book catalog.



Resume and further reading

The described SFX service went into production in April 2008 and runs very smoothly from the beginning. In comparison to e-journal full text targets, the service is rarely used (about 5 clickthroughs per week), but we expect this number to increase with the continuous growth of the e-book index.

Altogether the dynamic integration provides a very pragmatic solution to improve the visibility of e-books without multiplying the cataloging efforts. The setup of a dedicated catalog decouples e-book holdings from the SFX knowledge base and makes the information usable in multiple contexts. However dynamic lookups also have also certain drawbacks because they rely on the availability of an external service and may delay the display of the SFX menu. Therefore, we will reconsider the current implementation at a later stage.

Further reading

- Wiki of e-books project: <https://dev.livingreviews.org/projects/ebooks>
- E-books catalog: http://aleph.mpg.de/F?func=file&file_name=file-b&local_base=ebx01
- MPG/SFX service documentation: <https://dev.livingreviews.org/projects/vlib/wiki/SFXTargets/MPGeBooksIndex>