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# Collections and Access Policies of the Digital Material of Ten National Libraries

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# Introduction

- The *free access* for the metadata and the digital material is the most common policy
- The implemented access policies differ in **various aspects**
- Generalization of the implemented access policies into one **unified** policy
- Study of the **varying parameters** of the implemented access policies
- We foresee new **cost parameters**

# Digital collections and access policies

## Library of Congress (LC)

- Usually, **free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- However, sometimes the access is **restricted** for all
- Also, in some cases, thumbnails only for offsite users
- Except cases of fair use, **written permission** is needed for the reproduction from the copyright owner
- Possible **fees** may required for the **reproduction** given to the copyright owner

## **British Library (BL)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- **Written permission** is needed for the reproduction, even for private use, from the BL or the copyright owner

## **National Library of Australia (NLA)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Due to copyright or other restrictions, some categories of the digital material are only accessible for **onsite** users
- Except cases of private use, **written permission** is required for the reproduction

## **National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Some items are restricted during **conservation**
- **Written permission** is required for the reproduction from the NLNZ or the copyright owner
- **Reproduction fees** are required given to the Library as a contribution for the preservation of items in the collection of the Library, or to the copyright owner as copyright fess.

## **National Library of Canada (NLC)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- But, occasionally materials may be **restricted**

## **Four access policies is under consideration:**

1. *Open access.* Unrestricted access for onsite and offsite users
2. *Controlled remote access.* Remote access is available only to specified groups (e.g. registered libraries, registered clients etc.)
3. *Time windowing.* The remote access is initially restricted to within a given timeframe, and then followed by more liberal access afterwards
4. *Onsite consultation.* Access is limited to users on the domain of NLC

## **Copyright and reproduction**

- The user, before reproducing material from the website of the NLC, is asked to read the information provided, or contact the Copyright Bureau otherwise.

## **National Library of Wales (NLW)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Future plans for implementing **diversified** access and **charging** policies

## **National Library of Scotland (NLS)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- Except cases of private use, **written permission** must be obtained from the Library and permission **fees** must be paid to the Library
- **License** is required for the reproduction of digital images

## **National Library of Finland (NLF)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users
- The reproduction for **unauthorized** commercial use is prohibited and the source must be mentioned

## **National Library of Greece (NLG)**

- **Free access** for the metadata and the digital material for onsite and offsite users

## **National Library of the Netherlands (KB)**

- Usually **free** access, but in some cases, access only for **onsite** users
- **Written permission** is required for the reproduction

# Classification of access policies for the digital material and Conclusions

- The National Libraries provide **free access** for onsite and offsite for the metadata and the **non-copyrighted** digital material
- Variations on their policies mostly refer to the way they handle the **copyrighted** digital material
- Nearly always, **free** access to onsite users for the **copyrighted** material
- The **table** presents a synopsis of the implemented **access** policies on the **copyrighted** material

- The first column contains the examined digital **collection**
- The second, shows if offsite users are able to **access** the material.
- The third, shows if written **permission** and/or **license** is needed for the reproduction of the copyrighted digital material for non private use.
- The fourth, shows if a fee is needed for the **reproduction** for non private use.
  - *Library* means that the library asks for a fee, while *owner* means that the owner, which can be the library, requires a fee.
  - Often, the access and the reproduction policies are related to the way that the library has acquired the material and the current status of its copyright ownership.
- The last column has possible **comments** for each case.

<b>Collections</b>	<b>Access for offsite</b>	<b>Written permission and/or license for reproduction</b>	<b>Fee for reproduction</b>	<b>Comments</b>
LC / American Memory	Yes	Permission	Owner	
LC / America's Story from America's Library	Yes	Permission	Owner	
LC / Meeting of Frontiers	Yes	Permission	Owner	
LC / THOMAS: Legislative Information	Yes	No	No	
LC / Prints & Photographs Online Catalog	Thumbnails sometimes	Permission	Owner	Some images are not accessible by anyone

BL / Electronic Beowulf	Selected images	Permission	Library	The fee applies only to the CD-ROM version even for private use
BL / International Dunhuang Project	Yes	Permission	No	
NLA / Collections	Vary	Permission	Owner+	Some categories of digitized material are only accessible for onsite use
NLNZ / Timeframes	Yes	Permission	Library* and owner	
NLNZ / Papers Past	Yes	No	No	
NLNZ / Ranfurly Collection	Yes	No	No	Some items are restricted during conservation
NLNZ / Oral History Project (Excerpts)	Yes	No	No	Access to the full content through conventional ILL

NLC / Electronic Collection	Some	No!	No	
NLC / Glen Gould Archive	Yes	No!	No	
NLC / Virtual Gramophone	Yes	No!	No	
NLW / Digital Mirror	Yes	No	No	
NLS / Digital Library	Yes	License**	Library	
NLF / E-thesis	Yes	No	No	
NLG / Scientific Yearbooks	Yes	No	No	
KB / Web Exhibitions	Yes	Yes	Library and owner	
KB / Electronic Journals	No	Yes	Library and owner	

- + **Depends** on the collection.
- \* The **fees** for the reproduction are not **copyright fees** but a contribution towards funds for the **preservation** of items in the collection of the Library. Any fee payable to a **copyright holder** other than the Library is **additional** to the reproduction fee. Usually, the Library does not **charge a reproduction fee** where a **copyright fee** is due.
- ! The user is **asked** to read the **general** notice concerning the **reproduction** of the material.
- \*\* **License** is required for the **digital images**.

- There is ongoing **effort** from the Libraries to **provide** digital content
- Multiple reasons force the libraries to provide **digital content**:
  1. More **widely** and **easily** accessible than the conventional
  2. **Easier** to update, revise, search, retrieve, copy etc. than the conventional
- The National Libraries have implemented **similar** access policies so far
- The most common access policy is the **free access**

- The access for the **non-copyrighted** digital material and for the metadata is free for onsite and offsite users
- The access for the copyrighted digital material is usually free for **onsite users** and diversified for offsite users depending on the collection.
- Some National Libraries (e.g. NLW), plan on **charging** offsite users for copyrighted digital material
- In some cases, written **permission** is needed for the reproduction of the digital material usually for non private use, but not for online access.
- Also, fee for the **reproduction** can be given to the Library or the copyright owner.
- While, the **fee** given to the copyright owner is copyright fee, the fee given to the Library may refer to reproduction or conservation costs (e.g. NLNZ)

# Users classification

## **Classification of the users up to four groups:**

- *Onsite only users.* Staff and users from the buildings of the library such as reading rooms
- *Remote users of collaborated institutions.* Governmental organizations or libraries that need remote access to the collections
- *Individuals registered users.* Remote clients of the library such as users with an annual subscription
- *The rest of the remote users.* Users who search the digital library rarely, or one time visitors etc.

# New charging parameters

The access to the digital material can be with or without **charge**

- The **free digital material** is always delivered online by the system
- The delivery method of the **non free digital material**
  - online, through ILL and manual procedures, especially when **written permission** is involved or is sent directly by the permission grander
  - online when the permission granting procedure is **automatic**
- The permission for the **reproduction**
  - Although in most cases it is required to be given in writing, this is not scalable, so we propose an automatic granting procedure

# Trends and future work

- The **trends** are:
  - The digital material is **increasing**
  - **Free access** policy when there are resources available
  - **Payment** access policy in order to ensure the **viability** of the digital library when there aren't resources available
- More **complex** policies will be needed soon
  - Needs ... material ...

- **Future work**
  - to relate the **access** and the **reproduction** policies with the way that the library has **acquired** the material
  - To correlate the **usage** of the digital material with the **access** policy
  - **New** policy variations must be predicted and standardized