Occam's Reader

MINITEX 2014 Presentation

Occam's Reader

Our vision stems from the idea that, "Other things being equal,
a simpler explanation is better than a more complex one."

A collaboration between

Our Story So Far

- Spring 2011: Launched GWLA EBook Lending Task Force

- Fall 2011: First Occam's Reader planning meeting

- Fall 2012: First proof-of-concept demo to GWLA Deans

- Spring 2013: Occam's Reader began alpha testing

- Fall 2013: Added features, major publisher interest

- Spring 2014: Partnership with Springer announced

- **April 7, 2014: First transaction "<u>in the wild</u>"!**

Anyone Want a Cigar?
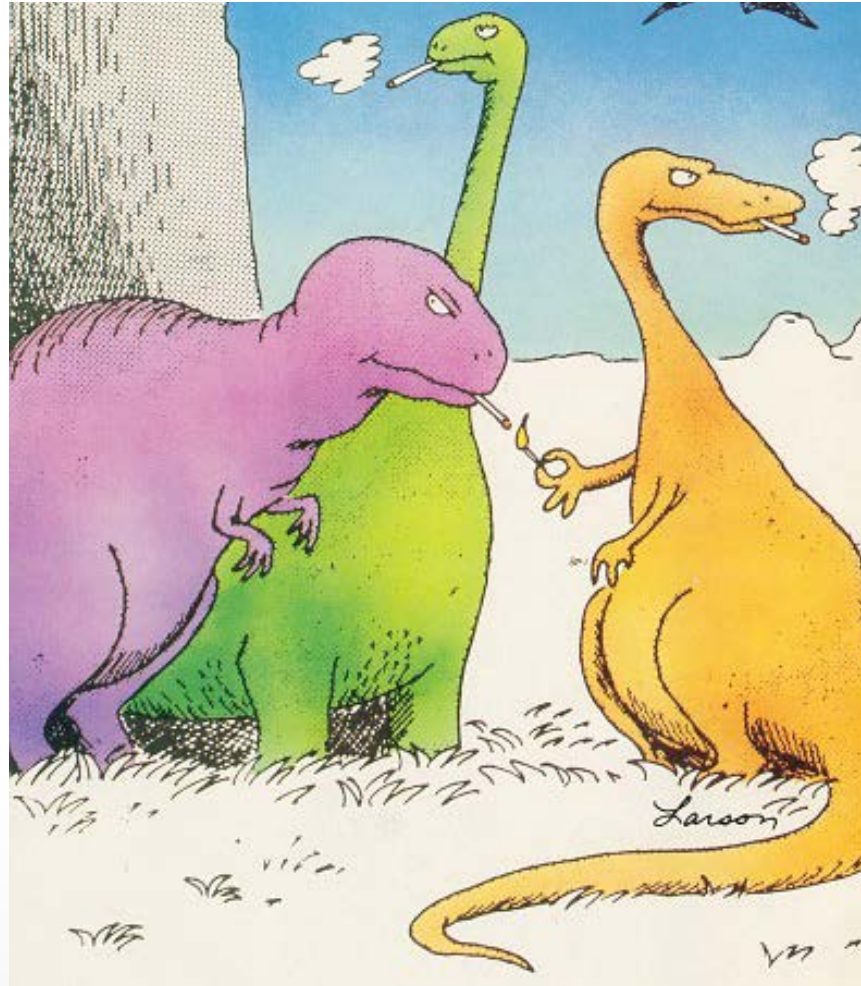
The Occam's Reader Team

Current Features

- Lender
  - o Support for plain text and PDF eBooks
  - o Customizable image quality and text rendering settings
  - o Complete ILLiad integration (as an add-on)

- Server
  - o Secure online access to borrowed eBooks
  - o Occam's Reader interface discourages piracy through simplicity
  - o Usage tracking and statistics

- Borrower
  - o At place of request the ILL staff has access to Occams Reader discoverability service
  - o Viewable on any device with an internet connection
  - o Ability to zoom, rotate, previous, next and jump to page

Established Development Goals

- Advance Occam's Reader as planned, independent of the GWLA/Springer Pilot

- Add watermark capability

- Support additional eBook formats other than PDF

- Add options to enforce local lending policies:
  - Track the number of local users
  - Set a maximum number of ILL users
  - Limit number of checkouts per item

- Offer a "recommend for purchase" option after the item has been used via ILL

Emerging Development Goals

- Improve the Occam's Reader system with feedback and lessons learned throughout the GWLA/Springer pilot

- Continue to refine the discovery layer
  - Work with Springer to update the content
  - Recognize locally held items and provide clear notice to the user

- Improve the image conversion experience:
  - Display a preview of random pages to test image quality settings
  - Add additional image quality settings
  - Split image conversion into smaller batches to improve performance
  - Allow image conversion to run in the background or at scheduled times

- Incorporate feedback from the ongoing usability survey and from GWLA member institutions' ILL staff

Occams Reader Pilot Terms – Key Points

- Springer eBook chapters and full eBooks will be eligible for use in this pilot

- Requestor viewing time shall be set at 14 days for full eBooks and 90 days for eBook chapters. Additional loan time will require another loan request.

- Request & loan details, including institutions involved and ISBNs, (but not including personal information) will be shared with Springer.

- Development of a new discovery layer to accommodate multiple types of eBook discovery

So What Does the Springer/Occam's Reader Partnership Mean?

- Adapt Occam's Reader to existing ILL department workflow

- Lending eBooks allows for NEW additional sales access to previously reluctant customers who may have been concerned about the lack of ILL availability

- Occam's Reader provides a path toward the long-accepted model of ILL while still offering unique content through a Springer license.

- Occam's Reader offers a new method of sharing content which is flexible and adaptable to publishing needs.

- We chose to contact Springer with this opportunity first given due to their long-term commitment to libraries, and their acceptance of new technology

- Security
  - Users are verified through their home institution via existing ILLiad authentication.
  - Occam's Reader is targeted for academic use only given the software and tradition of fair use among university libraries

Benefits to Libraries for using Occam's Reader

- The modular design of Occam's Reader provides security, the support for a variety eBook formats, and access through existing systems.

- Occams Reader integrates with existing ILL workflows via ILLiad add-ons and routing rules

- Increased eBook contract purchases instead of shipping physical books

- Basic interface discourages abuse: plain images, no metadata, and no search. Image watermarking is in development.

- eBook lending is an inevitable hurdle publishers must address

A Shared Vision of eBook Lending

- Deliver critical Academic/Research content faster to patrons without shipping cost

- Meet the needs of a growing patron demand for books that are available *only* as eBooks

- Provide an open and adaptable solution to the problem of lending eBooks between libraries

- Increase immediate access to the growing collection of eBooks that otherwise would be inaccessible to other libraries

Thank You

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