Market of (Un)Limited Possibilities
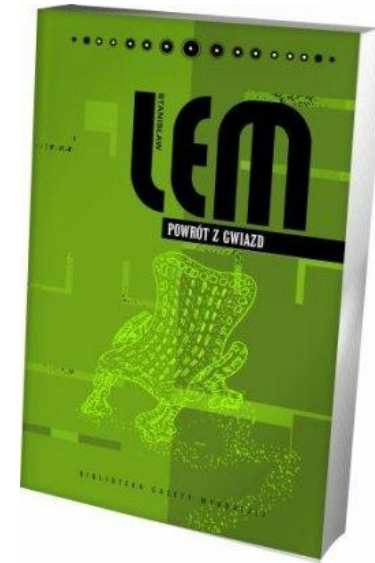# and Building E-book Collection in an Academic Library
(a Case Study)

Łukasz Bejnar

Main Library of the Wrocław

University of Technology

About e-books at a glance

1961 - In the novel *Return from the Stars* Stanislaw Lem describes inventions related to today's e-books and audiobooks - optons and lectons

1971 - Michael S. Hart launches *Project Gutenberg* and digitizes *The United States Declaration of Independence*, which becomes the first e-book in the world

1985 - *The Voyager Company*, a pioneer in CD-ROM production, is founded

1993 - *Digital Book Inc.* offers the first 50 digital books in floppy disk with *Digital Book Format (DBF)*

1998 - First dedicated e-book readers are released: *Rocket Ebook* and *SoftBook*

Rocket Ebook (Image courtesy of Gemstar TV Guide International)
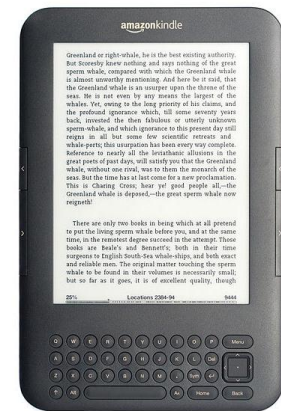

Softbook (Image from Wikipedia)

2002 - *Random House and HarperCollins* start to sell digital versions of their publications

2006 - *Sony* releases it's own e-reader

2007 - *Apple* launches *iPhone* (*iPad* in 2010)

2007 - *Amazon* launches *Kindle* (*Kindle2* – 2009, *Kindle3* – 2010)

Wikipedia's definition of e-book:

E-book is a text and image-based publication in digital form produced on, published by, and readable on computers or other digital devices (ex. e-reader),
its basic features are:
• availability "anytime",
• hypertextuality,
• convenient navigation and searching system,
• very good readability,
• access to the Internet (providing timeliness of information),
• ability to archive.

E-book market in Poland

Since 2004, the Main Library of the Wroclaw University of Technology systematically enriched its collections with electronic books available through commercial platforms and distribution companies

Market of suppliers of e-publications in Poland:
• is growing considerably
• consists of aggregators and publishers

Basic questions

which database will satisfy needs of our readers **?** what to buy

Test access

service usage statistics form the basis for a final decision to purchase

but

there are no guarantees that after the purchase, the base will be arousing

so much interest

The first platforms of electronic books took the form of closed multi-
or single subject collections.

They consisted both of popular titles
with high substantive value –
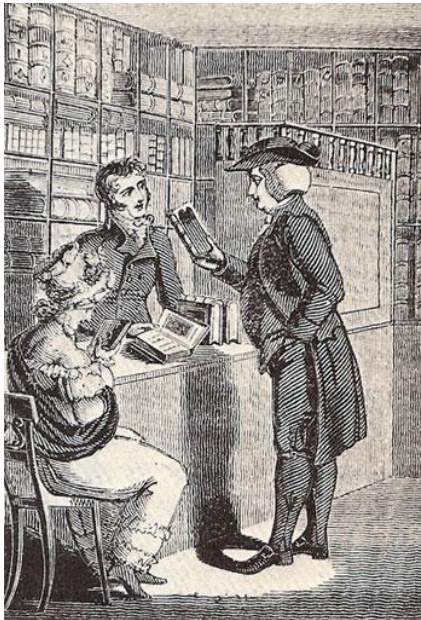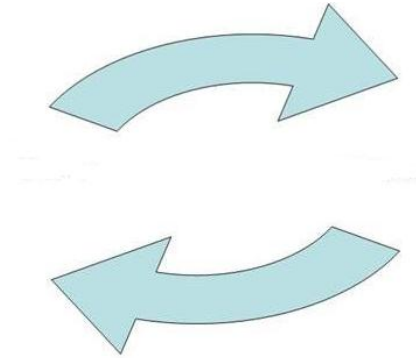the so-called "locomotives"

and less known publications, which
can be diplomatically described as
"trolleys"

The model of "rigid package of titles " is slowly disappearing

Today aggregators allow libraries to create their own collections or exchange unpopular e-books for another
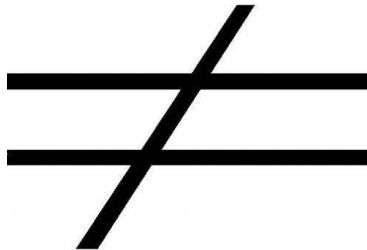
Market offers e-book rentals (based on the *OverDrive system*) – reader gets temporary access to the title, and when the deadline passes, publication is being blocked

The Main Library of the Wroclaw University of Technology buying criteria:

• the content of the collection

• consumer reviews

• price

• ability to place e-books in the ALEPH integrated catalog

The ownership of e-books causes some confusions

Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling,

Warsaw University (ICM) supports Polish libraries

W B N
Wirtualna Biblioteka Nauki

The principal national center to share databases and negotiate agreements

with publishers

Commercial platforms of e-books in the Main Library of Wroclaw University of Technology

Services of electronic books

- Safari (since 2004)

- Knovel (since 2006)

- Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology (since 2008)

- Korpo.ibuk.pl (since 2008)

- MyiLibrary (since 2008)

- SpringerLink (since 2010)

Development of collection of e-books for studies in English

2010 - the Main Library of the Wroclaw University of Technology started a project - *E-books for English language studies*

Studies are conducted under the program - *Development of potential and educational offer at Wroclaw University of Technology*

Wrocław University of Technology

Master programmes in English
at Wrocław University of Technology

search

Login:
Password:
login
remember me
register

Choose yourself and new technologies

About the project   About the programmes   Teaching materials   Contact details

About the project

> About the project
> Promotional Items

About the project

For the academic year 2010/11 Wrocław University of Technology has prepared a wide selection of Master studies implemented within a Project titled 'The Development of the Potential and Academic Programmes of Wrocław University of Technology'.

Project is run within the Human Capital Operational Programme – Sub-measure 4.1.1. *Strengthening and development of didactic potential of universities.*

Project aims

- Modifying and extending the academic offer of Wrocław University of Technology by implementing 18 Master programmes taught in English. All programmes reflect job market expectations, both in the European and global economy.
- Educating 270 engineers in areas for which a high demand is expected within the next 10 years.
- Increasing the competence of 200 academic staff members in the area of lecturing in English. This aim will be achieved by providing specialized English language courses for lecturers.
- Reducing barriers in education opportunities for disabled students.

Additional profits for choosing one of our Master programmes

- **Free access** to an online database with materials for students created for the sake of each programme!
- A set of textbooks for each student **free of charge**

Disability support

Financial support from The European Social Fund made it possible for us to purchase specialized equipment for student with visual and mobility disabilities. Thanks to this support our University will ensure that all students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities.

The phases of program:

- creating a preliminary list of desired titles

- choosing an appropriate base and supplier

- creating a final list of desired titles

- purchasing

Future belongs to e-books

Thank you for your attention