Books Redevelopment

July 2, 2018 - the new Scholars Portal Books platform is live!

Collections currently available on Scholars Portal Books

- ACUP - Athabasca University, Institute of Social and Economic Research, McGill-Queen's University Press, Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies, Presses de l'Université Laval, Presses de l'Université du Québec, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of Manitoba, University of Ottawa/Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, University of Regina, University of Toronto, Wilfrid Laurier.
- Brill
- Business Expert Press (BEP)
- Canadian Public Documents Collection (CPDC)
- CRKN purchased collections (2008) - Cambridge, CEL, Oxford, Taylor & Francis
- Duke University Press
- Elsevier
- Emerald
- eTheses
- Harvard (DeGruyter deal)
- IEEE- Wiley & MIT Press
- Iter
- Institute for Engineering and Technology (IET)
- Karger
- LWW
- Morgan & Claypool
- National Roundtable on the Environment & the Economy
- Ontario Government Documents Collection
- Oxford Scholarship Online - American University in Cairo, British Academy, Columbia University, Cornell, Fordham, Hong Kong, Liverpool, Manchester, MIT, NYU, Oxford University, Policy Press, Stanford, University of California, University of Chicago, University of Edinburgh, University of Hawai'i, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina, University Press of Florida, University Press of Kentucky, University Press of Mississippi, Yale University
- Palgrave
- Pharmapress
- PsycBooks (APA)
- Sage
- SPIE
- Springer
- Taylor & Francis (direct)
- University of Chicago (direct)
- Wiley (direct)

New collections coming up:

- Champlain Society
- Edward Elgar
- Taylor & Francis (UofT deal)
- Manchester Gothic (Western deal)
- Open Editions (Ottawa deal)
- ProQuest - US Academic series

About the redevelopment

The Scholars Portal Books platform was released in 2009, when the ebook landscape looked significantly different. Consultation with the OCUL community indicated significant interest in renewing the platform, both to end reliance on software that is no longer supported, and to better be able to serve up content as it's packaged and purchased today. In late 2014 the OCUL Directors approved funding for a two year redevelopment project.

The Scholars Portal Books platform has been completely redesigned from the ground up. All indexing and retrieval is now handled using MarkLogic, and our new built-in-house HTML reader delivers a significantly enhanced in-browser reading experience. Books metadata is now being loaded into MarkLogic in the BITS XML format, ending our reliance on MARC records to load content.

A new administrative interface will allow eresource staff to view their entitlements and license terms, and to generate KBART lists, MARC collections, and usage reports on the fly.

Redevelopment Timeline

- November 2014 - OCUL-SP proposal to fund Books Reinvestment approved by OCUL Directors
- February 2015 - Books redevelopment survey circulated to OCUL staff. 90 responses received
- March 2015 - Books Reinvestment Working Group is formed as a subcommittee of OCUL-SP
- November 2015 - Functional Requirements document developed by working group is approved by OCUL Directors.
- January 2016 - SP begins scoping deliverables based on functional requirements
- August 2016 - Two full-time eBook developers hired
- June 2017 - Beta release of the new Scholars Portal Books platform (limited features and collections, staff only)
- May 2018 - General release of the new Scholars Portal Books platform in beta
- **July 2018 - Full release of the new Scholars Portal Books platform.**

  Bug fixes and feature enhancements will continue.

Scope of the staff-only beta release

- On-campus users will be able to search across twelve active collections and narrow their search by criteria such as publisher, year of publication, and subject. Authenticated users will be able to view both PDF and XML books that their school has purchased in the online reader, and to download books either at the chapter level or by extracting up to 20% of the book as a PDF (where permitted by the license).

- Users will be able to select books from the search results or metadata page and add them to the My Books list, where they can generate a citation or reading list.

Scope of the Spring 2018 public beta release release

- Users will be able to access books with concurrent use restrictions. Users will be able to search within PDF and HTML content, and to search across XML book and navigate directly to sections associated with search results.
- ACE Users will be able to review the terms of use and log in with a token. They will be able to navigate through the entirety of the site using keyboard commands, search all collections, and download any content they are entitled to (nb not all ACE content is currently available)

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With support from Anika Ervin-Ward, Kate Davis, Amaz Taufique, Dawas Zaidi, Bikram Singh, Harpinder Singh, and Carlos McGregor Muro.

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