Open Movements and Libraries

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If you are like me right now...

Photo courtesy of Timmy Toucan:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/timmythesuk/

But hang in there..

Photo courtesy of Dave Bunnel:
http://www.answers.com/topic/
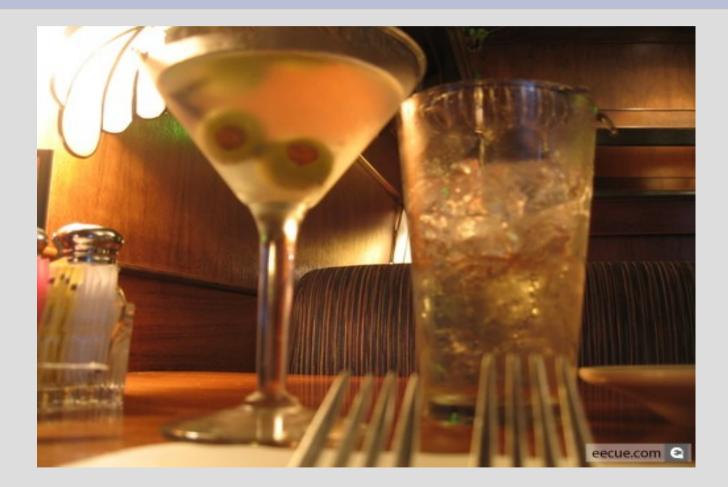townsends-in-music-hall-jpg

However, in just under 1 hour:

Photo courtesy of David Bullock:
http://eecue.com/images_archive/
eecue-images-27414-dirty_martini.html

Agenda

- Background
- Open Access
- Open Standards
- Open Source
- Benefits and Implications for the future

Background

- Open Source Software user/advocate
- President, Linux Users Group/In Princeton
- Realist (best software for the job)
- Why this presentation, and why here?

Background

- Dietz, Roland and Carl Grant (2005). The disintegrating world of library automation. *Library Journal 130*(11): 38-40
- Corrado, Edward M. (2005, Spring). The Importance of Open Access, Open Source, and Open Standards for Libraries. *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, 42 (*Article 2).

Open Access

- Different Definitions and
- Different Flavors
- An alternative to traditional publication methods
- End users have "open access" to articles and other publications.

Willinsky's 9 Flavors of Open Access (Bold are "true" Open Access):

1. E-print archive: authors self-archive pre- or post-prints
2. **Unqualified:** immediate and full open access publication of a journal
3. **Dual mode:** both print subscription and open access versions of a journal are offered)
4. Delayed open access: open access is available after a certain period of time
5. **Author fee:** authors pay a fee to support open access)

Willinsky's 9 Flavors of Open Access (Bold are "true" Open Access):

6. Partial open access: some articles from a journal are available via open access
7. Per-capita: open access is made available to countries based on per-capita income
8. Abstract: open access available to table of contents/abstracts
9. **Co-op:** institutional members support open access journals

Why Open Access?

- Response to enormous costs of journals (esp. in sciences)
- Pay twice
- High Visibility
- Availability to independent researchers, smaller institutions, and disadvantaged areas
- Long term access

Open Standards

"a standard that is independent of any single institution or manufacturer, and to which users may propose amendments."

Pountain, D. 2003. The Penguin Dictionary of Computing. New York: Penguin Putnam.

Key Characteristics of an Open Standard

- Anyone can . . .
  - Use the standard to develop software
  - Acquire the standard for free (or at no significant cost)
  - Participate in the development process

Open Standards: Open in Process vs. in Utility

- If standards meat the first two criteria, they are open in utility
- If they meet all three criteria, they are open in process

Open Standards in Libraries

- Dublin Core
- OAI
- NISO standards
- MARC
- Card catalogs

Why Open Standards?

- Helps ensure long term accessibility
- Less likely to become obsolete
- Interoperability
- Flexibility
- Less vendor lock-in

Free/Libre Open Source Software

Photo courtesy of Edward M. Corrado: http://ecorrado.us/

Free/Libre Open Source Software

- Free as in Speech (Libre)
- Not necessarily Free as in Martinis (gratis)
- Free to redistribute
- Access to the Source Code
  - Can modify the code
  - Can redistribute those modifications
- No discrimination against people or fields of endeavor

Definition of Open Source

"Generically, open source refers to a program in which the source code is available to the general public for use and/or modification from its original design free of charge, i.e., open."

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/O/open_source.html

Open Source is not (necessarily)

- Non-supported
- Non-commercial
- Made by a couple of geeks in a garage wearing "Duran Duran" T-shirts

Why Open Source?

- Costs (initial and ongoing)
- Easier to evaluate
- Modifiable/customizable
- Often better support for Open Standards
- Additional support options
- No vendor lock-in

Open Source Success Stories

- Software
  - GNU/Linux
  - Apache
  - MySQL
  - Firefox
  - Thunderbird
  - OpenOffice.org
- Companies
  - Red Hat
  - IBM
  - Novell
  - Sun
  - Google

Library software vendors and Open Source

- Many (most?) are already taking some advantage of Open Source Software
  - Apache
  - Tomcat
  - Perl
  - MySQL
  - etc.
- Competition from "Outside Vendors." Not big enough to compete with Amazon, Google, etc. on own

Library software vendors and Open Source

- "Many librarians want it, provided they can still have a commercial source for support, training, and documentation."
- The "level of flexibility vendors must design into their systems to support the incredibly diverse ways that libraries complete routine tasks is again very costly overhead that can no longer be afforded."

- Dietz and Grant (2005)

Open Source, Open Access, and Open Standards together

- Lower Costs
- Greater accessibility
- Interoperability
- Long term preservation
- Lower the "information divide"

Thanks for staying!

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Answers?
- Contact: http://www.tcnj.edu/~corrado/
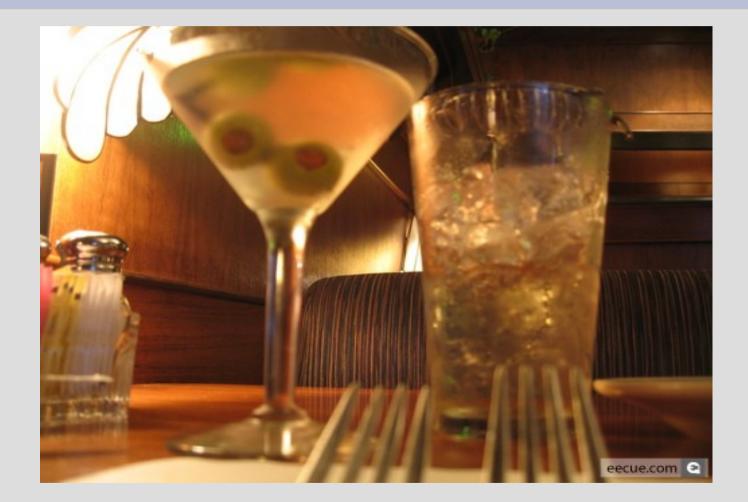
Time for that Martini!

Photo courtesy of David Bullock: http://eecue.com/images_archive/
eecue-images-27414-dirty_martini.html