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# Answering *all* the questions

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“Why *can't* I put this DVD on my laptop?”

<http://librarian.net/talks/danger>

# How & when to break the law

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in the interests of good customer service & social justice

*NB: the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1985 that infringement does not easily equate with theft*

# Inspiration for this talk

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I can get almost any content I want; I know the legit and less-legit ways.

But can my patrons.

And should they?

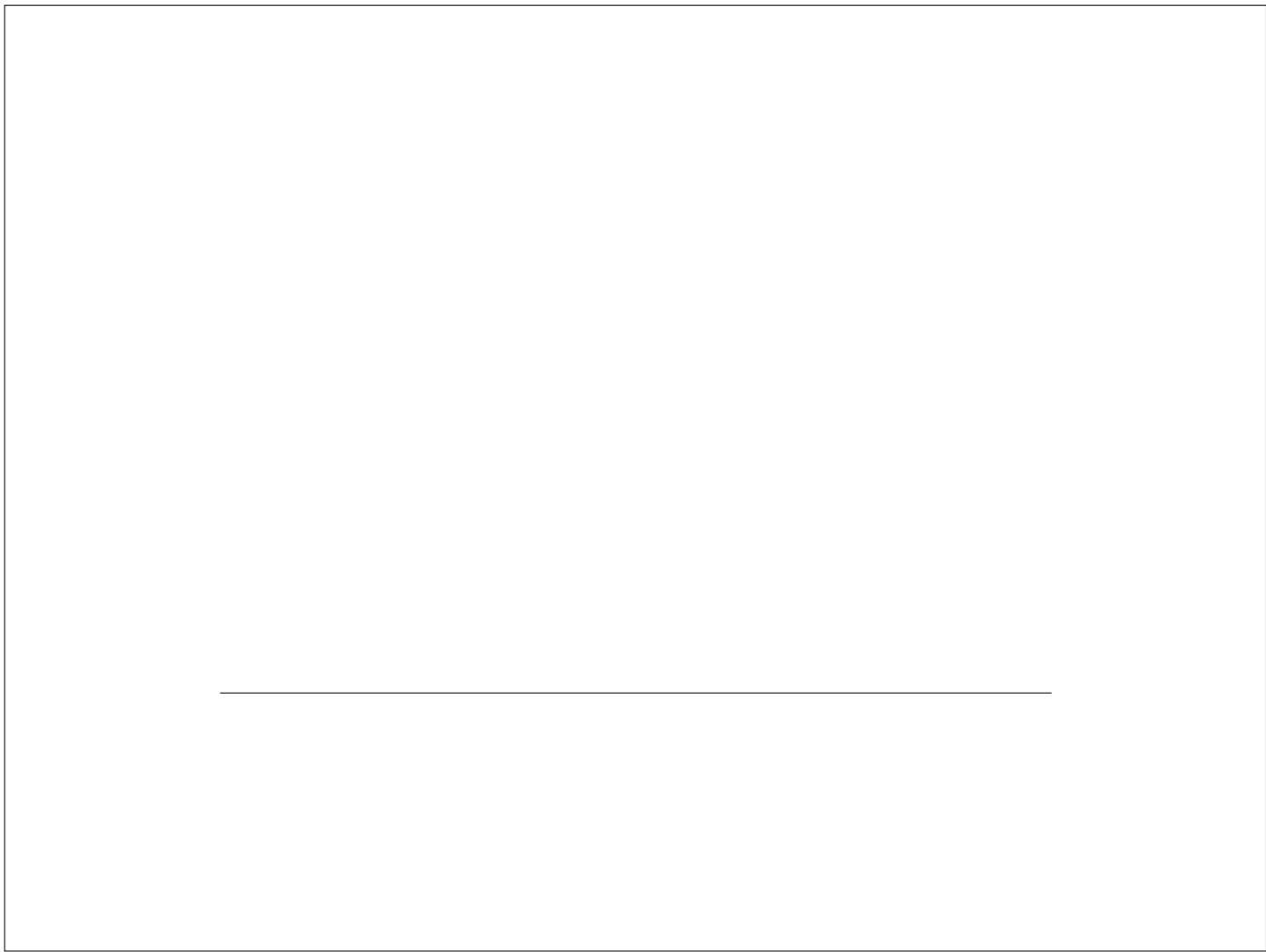
I have postits all over my office with library card numbers given to me by other librarians so that I can get access to things in databases. I'm a Fellow at the Harvard Law School Library Innovation Lab. Sounds fancy but literally the only thing it gives me besides a chance to hobnob with folks there (useful!) is a library card. But what a library card!!

# Obligatory

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Some of this stuff may not be legal or ethical where you live or work. And while I am empathetic with that issue, it's important to us as professionals to differentiate what is just sharing information (this talk) and the decisions about what you DO about this information at your job.



Caveat!

# IANAL

## TINLA

---

*I am not a lawyer. This is not legal advice.*

Caveat!



“

**"If you are anything like the  
typical Australian, you  
probably break the copyright  
law 80 times a day..."**

---

*Report of the Productivity Commission inquiry into intellectual  
property arrangements*

Realistically copyright is, at best, confusing and at worst a terrible thing that is actually stifling the creativity it's supposed to incentivize. And people don't understand it. Some are very afraid of it, some are less so. Watching the Librarian of Congress wrassling with the Copyright Office is like one of those squid versus whale epic battles. And then we have to translate what is happening at higher levels to what happens at our jobs.



---

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# The talk

---



This is my train station where I waited to come here. I ran into my doctor there and we blabed about going to NY. I talked about this conference and how I wanted to help people get access to information. He was like "Oh you mean like newspaper databases?" and I was like "Sort of, but more like scenarios where there's a conflict between our values of access for everyone and the copyright/legal environment of the digital world..." I could see I was losing him when I started talking about ripping DVDs. So I changed my tack and started talking about how, if you were in a state where pot was legal, was it OK to tell a patron that they could probably get home delivery on Craigslist? And his eyes lit up. My doctor is a pothead. I know this. You have to find ways to make this make sense to people.

# Three categories of stuff

---



## Books

Container vs. content  
amirite? How much are  
we allowed to format shift.  
Why is DRM so crappy?



## Movies

So many places to watch  
them, so many formats to  
mess with.



## Music

Remember Napster?  
People still want music  
quickly and easily.  
Streaming services have  
serious limitations.

So there are three main areas where this overlaps with me at my jobs. At your fancier big city jobs this may be slightly different (3D printing files, software downloading &c) but I'll keep it to this for this talk.

# Also obligatory

The screenshot shows the Silk Road anonymous market interface. At the top, it displays the site name "Silk Road anonymous market", user statistics (messages 1, orders 0, account \$0.00), and a search bar. A "Shop by Category" sidebar on the left lists various product categories with their respective item counts. The main content area features a grid of product listings, each with a photograph, a description, and a price. The listings include:

- 5x - 10mg Dexedrine (Pure Dextroamphetamine) for \$4.94
- 2 x 0.25 mg Xanax (Alprazolam) for \$1.50
- Malena charas hand rubbed Indian hash 100g for \$75.83
- 1 Gram OG HUSH OIL 81% THC 90% TOTAL for \$4.13
- 14 grams (1/2 Ounce) of Nebula JWH-122 for \$2.63
- 3.5g Crystal Meth Ice Shards for \$31.92
- 20 x 25mg Cials for \$2.57
- III...Psilocybe-Cubensis-Chocolate...III for \$18.15
- BANJO5 (handwritten note)
- SUPERTRIPS (handwritten note)
- ADDERAL XR (Adderall medication)

This talk is not about the Dark Web where I think the "THIS IS ACTUALLY ILLEGAL" vibe is stronger



*"All I have is a crappy laptop and I want to watch this movie on my tv hooked up to my AppleTV... can you help me?"*

*Library patron*

But let's get back to our jobs. I work in a rural library when I'm doing in-the-library work. This sort of thing happens to me ALL THE TIME. Patron has a completely legit thing they want to do with legally obtained content.



and I get that librarian conflict of interest look going on. On the one hand I KNOW how to do this. On the other hand, the way I know requires ignoring my extensive knowledge of copyright laws. On the other hand that same knowledge bank also tells me "No one goes to jail for this, ever" and so I make my decision

“

**When it feels like the  
right thing to do, break  
the damn rules.**

---

*Chris Bourg, Director of Libraries, MIT*

I am quoting this somewhat out of context



# Librarians do this IRL



## What to Read This Month

Librarians, enjoy these books that publishers want you to see first. Don't forget to send them your Feedback, including answering the yes/no questions and nominating your favorites for LibraryReads.

Happy School Library Month! We asked our members for their fondest memory of their school library, and we're loving the responses! Check them out: [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



## Spotlight Title



*Do Not Become Alarmed*  
by Maile Meloy

When Liv and Nora decide to take their families on a holiday cruise, everyone is thrilled. The ship's comforts and possibilities seem infinite. The children love the nonstop buffet and the

Or maybe you just have a personal reason to want to do this. Not sure if you can see this but this is a librarian friend of mine, wants to rip his LEGALLY OBTAINED DVDs so he can ditch the physical media. It's facebook so everyone is like "try this... or that" but the sort of help he got from the internet is not what he would get at many (most) public libraries. And I use NetGalley and sometimes I want to move that digital file around... And I don't know about academic libraries but where I'm from, many would just be saying "Sorry..."



*"There is software that can help you make a copy of DVDs to play on an Apple TV. I can't show you how to use it but I can tell you where to go for more information..."*

---

*Librarian*

So this is usually what I do. I don't judge when people come into the library to get whatever book or movie or music I might be internally judgey about. I don't tell them to wear a seat belt when they get racecar books. I don't say "The drinking age is 21!" when teens take out books about wine connoisseurship. So why so uptight about coyright infringement? (I mean I do sort of know the answer to this, feel free to talk about it afterwards?)

# VLC and Handbrake

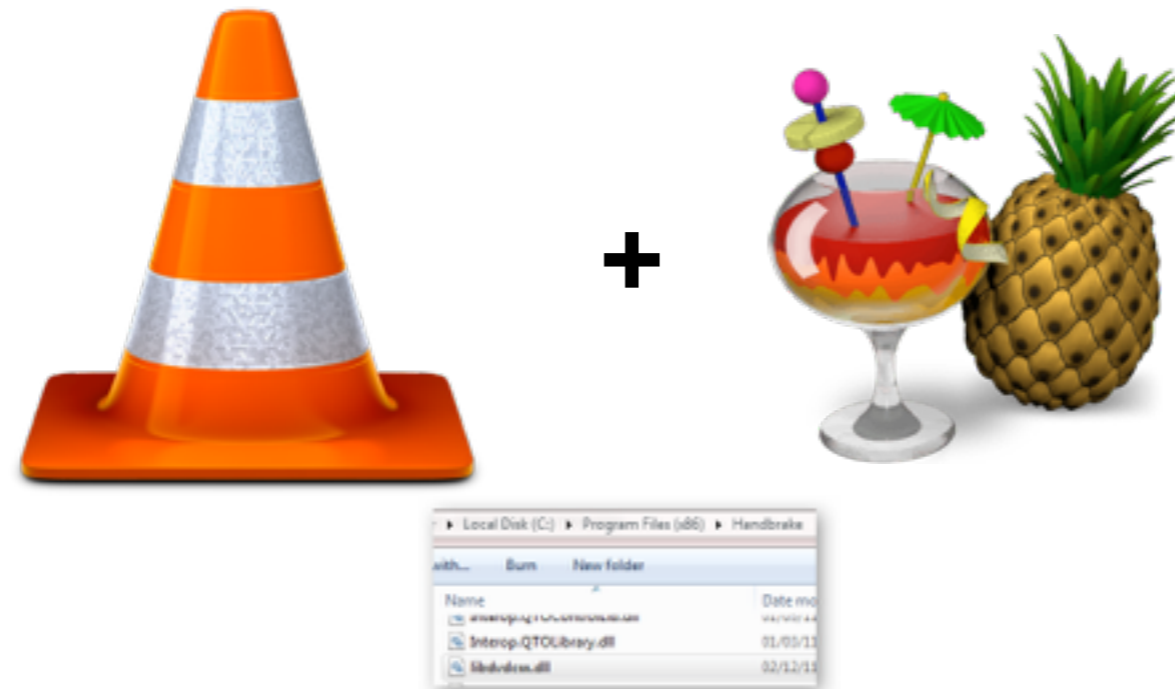
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And then we have a small conversation about VLC (a media player) or Handbrake (a media ripper) and I might mention that you have to fiddle a little with Handbrake to get it to work right.

# VLC and Handbrake

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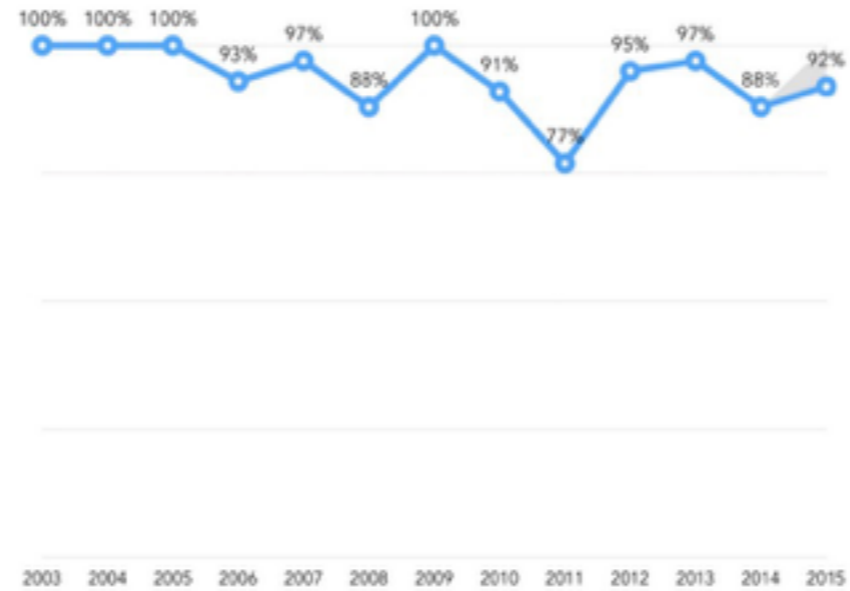
## How many Oscar screeners leak?



And this material is out there on the internet anyhow, actually. There is some neat stuff to read if you're interested in the world of leaks and piracy. Andy Baio has been tracking internet leaks for the past 15-ish years almost

# How many Oscar screeners leak?

What's Actually Leaking



Percentage of films available in high-quality format online before Oscar night. Note: The 2015 percentage will almost certainly go up before Oscar night.

And this material is out there on the internet anyhow, actually. There is some neat stuff to read if you're interested in the world of leaks and piracy. Andy Baio has been tracking internet leaks for the past 15-ish years almost

# 97%

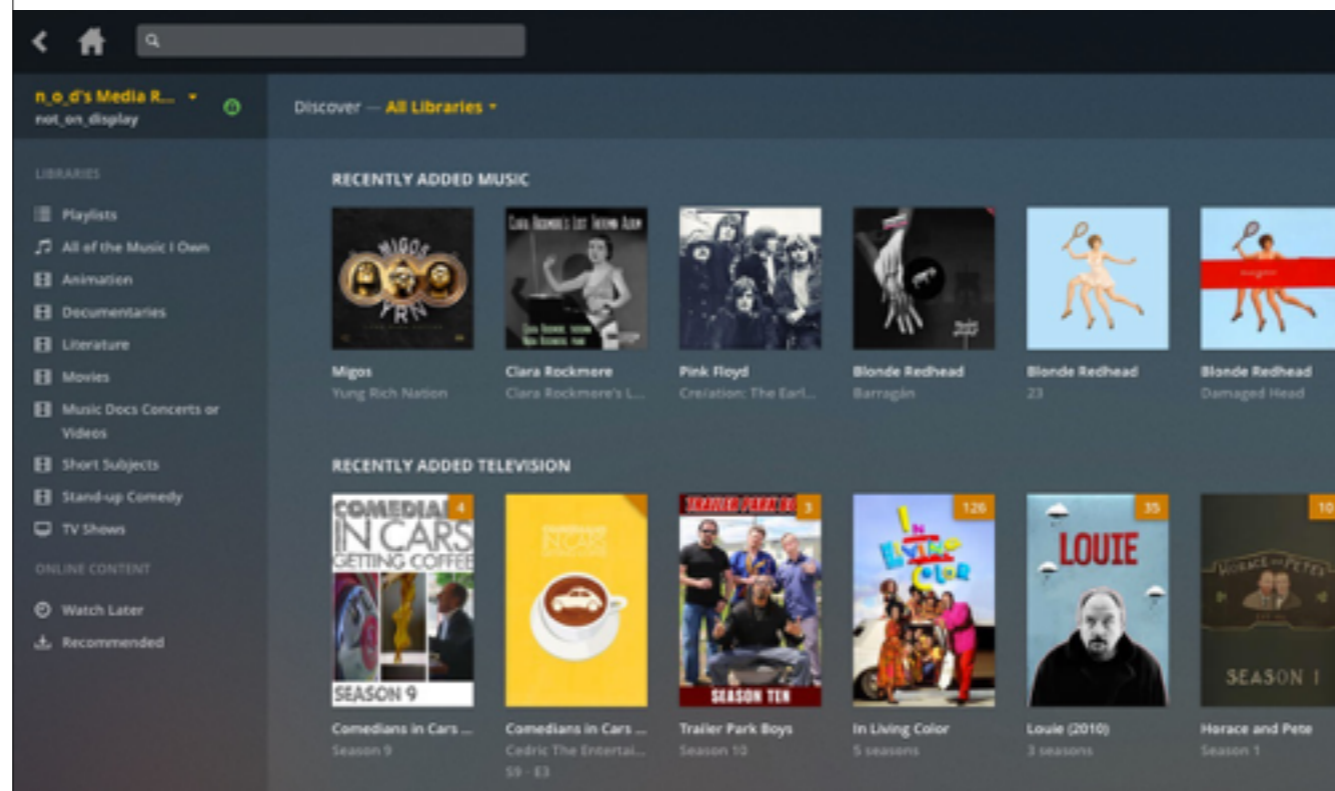
of Oscar nominees leaked online in DVD or higher quality, a month before the ceremony

---

*Pirating the Oscars 2016 - Andy Baio*

I say this not to forward the "everyone does it" argument, but to say that this sort of thing, ripping and distribution of copyrighted highly popular content, is normalized online. Enough so that people study it This is a statistic worth knowing. I live in a town with a movie theater (yay) with one screen (um) that shows one movie one time per day (aww). I'd be lying if I said I didn't sometimes watch a little somethingsomething online.

# Plex



Now most of the way \*I\* do that is via Plex which is sort of a nice web server front end you can place on top of your media collection. You can install it if you can't code. You can install it if you don't otherwise have a server. And, unlike Netflix, it's not trying to upsell me on anything "Want to watch this incredibly popular thing that is tangentially like something your sister watched?" Plex is free. I wrote a column for Computers in Libraries about possible uses libraries could make from this which will come out in a few months. Email me for a prepub copy.

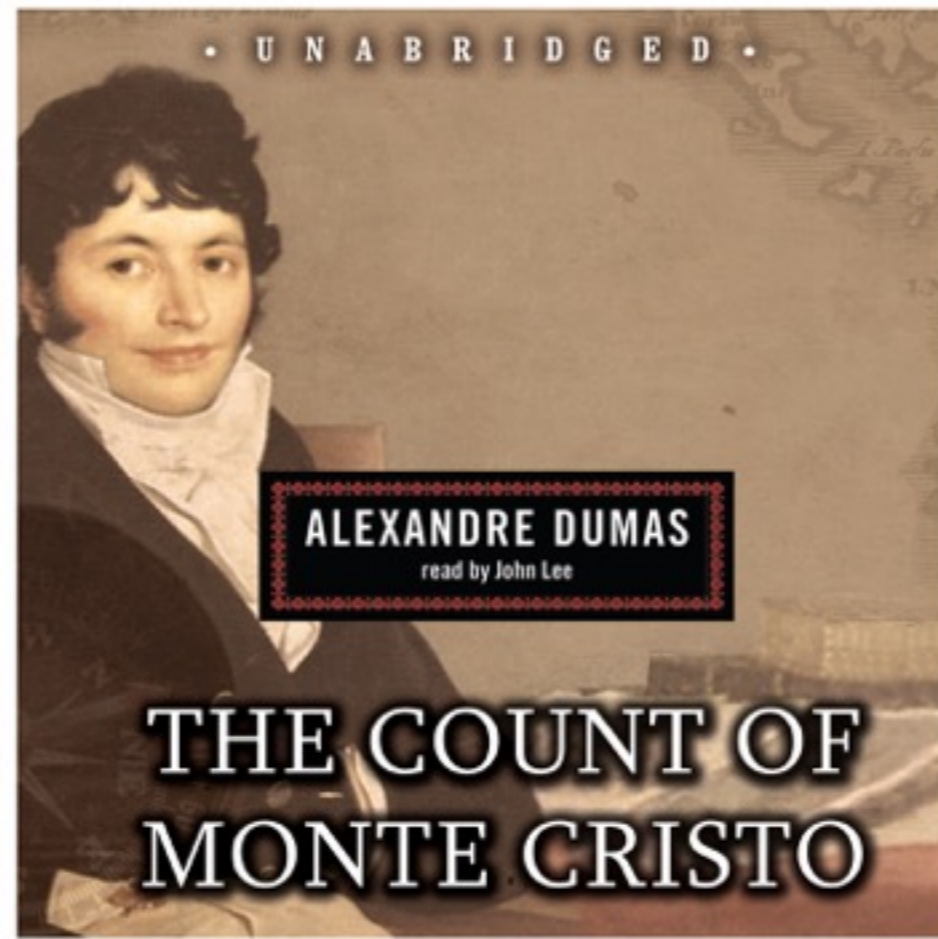




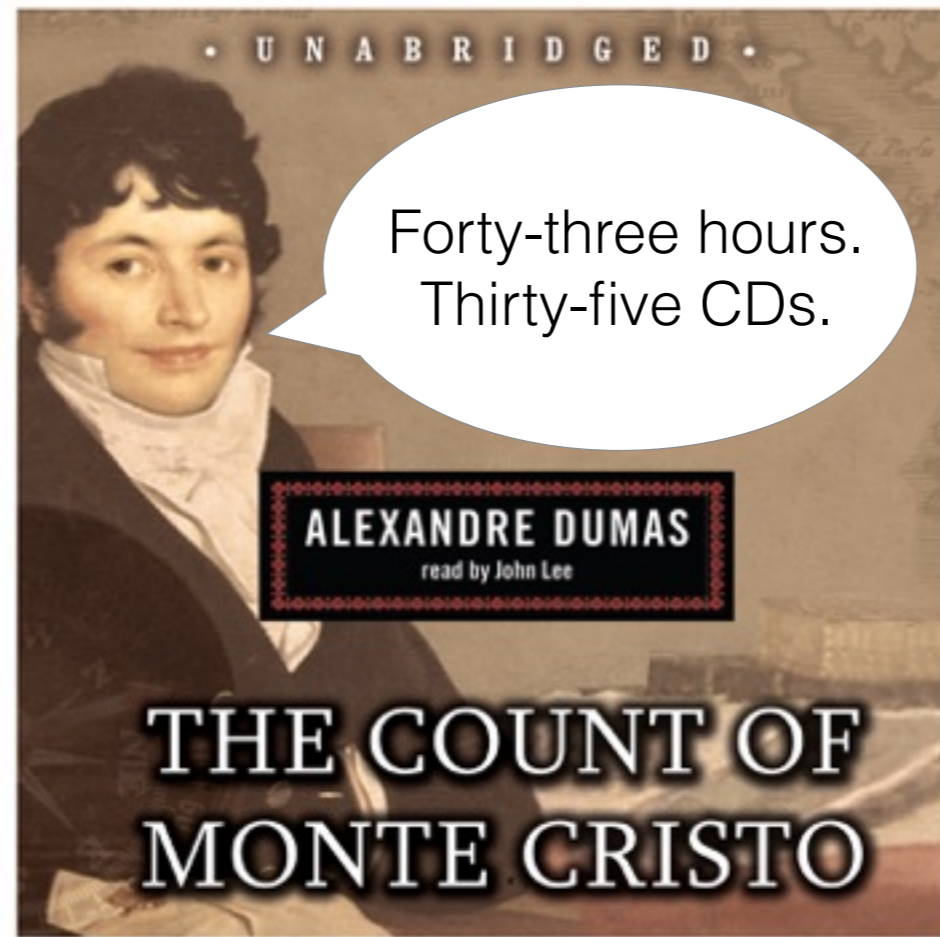
*"I want to take the Count of Monte Cristo audio book on my vacation but, I'm leaving in two days and won't be back for a month and **you have punishing late fees...**"*

—  
*Library patron*

Other patrons may have other needs, some of them which they may feel forced into because of our policies. This person maybe seems like they are just being ... nervous.



Until you look and find out that some of these DVDs are LONG, yo.



Until you look and find out that some of these DVDs are LONG, yo.



*“Overdrive only has the Windows Media version and I want to put this audiobook on my iPod.”*

—  
*Library patron*

For a long time, this was one of the worst policies that we had to support "Yeah I know Overdrive books won't work on the most popular music player in the galaxy... but bear with me while I help you get it on to your Zune..." Let's look at other more bookish issues.



*"Late fees are a disincentive to library use, true. Please let me explain how you can rip those CDs to your laptop for the trip. Just please delete the files when you get back."*

---

*Librarian*

So this sort of thing falls into a grey area that is just barely grey right? Maybe?



*"I want to read this book on my Kindle but I need the "read aloud" function but the publisher disabled that because they are jerks"*

---

*Print disabled library patron*

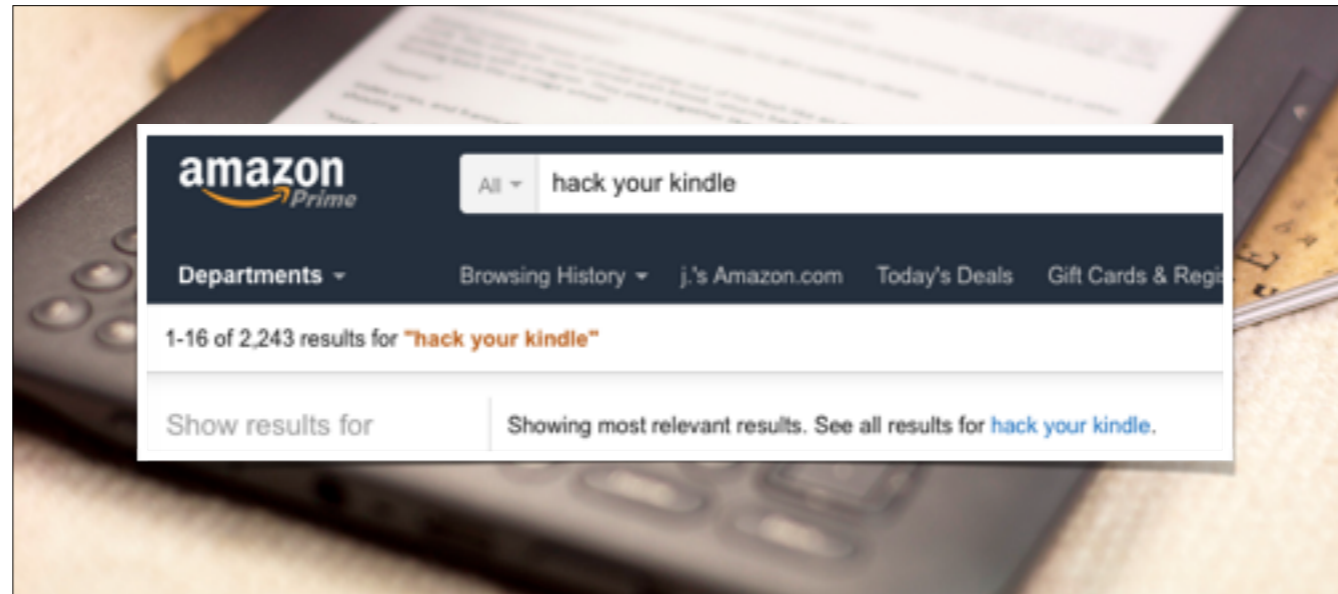
More books. There are a few things people might want to do with a book. Some of it is pretty basic. People bitch about ebooks a lot but one amazing thing is that they're very accessible to print disabled folks of various kinds.



*“I have a Kindle Keyboard and I have an EPUB of the book I got from Overdrive. How to read this book?”*

—  
*Library patron*

Older Kindles cost about \$50 on ebay and they are great for people who just want a thing that basically reads books, even out loud. BUT you have to get stuff into Kindle format first. And on to the thing. These machines are also easy to hack. (click) Actually because of the dumb way Amazon's search works, most of these results aren't about hacking Kindles. More's the pity.



*"I have a Kindle Keyboard and I have an EPUB of the book I got from Overdrive. How to read this book?"*

*Library patron*

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# Google "Apprentice Alf"

---



So I teach people that there are tools available that can do the things they want to do. We don't get too far into specifics but it's worth knowing what is possible. Calibre is an exceptional ebook manager and with a little bit of added plugins it becomes a DRM-stripping machine. If you're into that sort of thing.



*"I need a copy of this journal article in the next three days  
and I can't wait for you to ILL it from France."*

---

*Library patron*

This is one that is a bigger deal for academic libraries



*"I am from a country where the average monthly wage is less than Elsevier is asking for this journal article. WTF?"*

—  
*Library patron*

And does it matter if the scenario is the former issue or this one?



Read paywalled research papers for free.

Click the green tab and skip the paywall. It's fast, free, and legal, powered by our database of millions of author-uploaded PDFs.

Free for Chrome and Firefox

+ Add Unpaywall to Firefox  
on the Firefox web store




We've been busting our butts trying to get things into OA repositories, we are all about sharing the stuff. There are varying ways to show people how to do this from the legit with browser plugins and everything... to the less legit. So when we look someone in the eye and tell them "That article will cost \$25 because we can't ILL it" are we telling the truth?

So back to content in general...

unpaywall

Open Access Button



# Avoid Paywalls, Request Data.

Free, legal research articles and data delivered instantly or automatically requested from authors.

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We've been busting our butts trying to get things into OA repositories, we are all about sharing the stuff. There are varying ways to show people how to do this from the legit with browser plugins and everything... to the less legit. So when we look someone in the eye and tell them "That article will cost \$25 because we can't ILL it" are we telling the truth?

So back to content in general...

unpaywall

Open Access Button

Avoid

Library Collections Discussions Search

\*\*\*\*\*  
today

**Baudrillard and the Millennium** Chris Horrocks  
Icon Books, 1999

**Critical Terms for Art History (Second Edition)** Robert S. Nelson , Richard Shiff , Mark Antliff , Nina Athanassoglou-Kallmyer , Stephen Bann , Homi K. Bhabha , Suzanne Preston Blier , Michael Camille , David Carrier , Craig Clunas , Whitney Davis , Jas Elsner , Ivan Gaskell , Ann Gibson , Charles Harrison , James D. Herbert , Amelia Jones , Wolfgang Kemp , Joseph Leo Koerner , Patricia Leighton , Paul Mattick Jr. , Richard Meyer , W. J. T. Mitchell , Robert S. Nelson , Margaret Olin , William Pietz , Alex Potts , Donald Preziosi , Lisbet Rausing , Richard Shiff , Terry Smith , Kristine Stiles , David Summers , Paul Wood , James E. Young  
Second Edition, Full book. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London

**"Becoming a Part of the Lurking Evil": Occultural Accelerationism, Lovecraftian Modernity, and the Interiorization of Monstrosity** Justin Woodman  
Study on chaos magicians and their attempts on the interiorization of monstrosity

**Les Jeux et les Hommes** Roger Caillois  
un essai du sociologue Roger Caillois

new requests

broadcast

RECENT COMMENTS

**Message user**  
Can we PLEASE  
There are several  
scanning similar  
helpful if we can  
identification. I he  
only to find they

**Search function**  
The search func  
any more. One a  
Representation  
Historical Paper  
author. It does  
Thank ...

We've been busting our butts trying to get things into OA repositories, we are all about sharing the stuff. There are varying ways to show people how to do this from the legit with browser plugins and everything... to the less legit. So when we look someone in the eye and tell them "That article will cost \$25 because we can't ILL it" are we telling the truth?

So back to content in general...

# complicated...

The screenshot displays a web-based search interface for Usenet. At the top, there are navigation links: [Easynews Search](#), [Your Account](#), [Favorites](#), [Zip Manager](#), [Usenet Main Members Page](#), [Usenet Preferences](#), and [Usenet Search](#). Below these is a 'Form Layout: Basic Tabbed 2 Columns' section. The search criteria include: Keywords (Harry Potter), Subject, Date, Newsgroups, Filename (File Ext.), YCode (YCode), and Text (ARCHIVE, AUDIO, DOCUMENT, VIDEO, EXECUTABLE, IMAGE, MISC, RARITY). There are also fields for Sort By (Subject, Asc, Desc), File Name (Asc, Desc), and Size (Asc, Desc). A 'Results per Page' dropdown is set to 100, and 'Result Page #' is 1. The 'Output Style' is set to 'Standard'. On the right, there are several checkboxes for search options: Apply Your Search Filter, Remove Duplicates, Enable Starred Keywords, Hover Thumbnails, Hover Information, Collapse Info, Group Expansion (Advanced), Light Output, and Set as Default. There is a 'Save Search' button and a 'Save Label' field. Below these are buttons for 'Search', 'Clear', 'Reset', and 'Hide Form'. A 'Data & Time' section on the right contains several 'Any' dropdown menus with 'to' and 'from' labels. At the bottom, it says 'No Results.' and repeats the navigation links.

trying to actually steal content "from online" has a lot of different faces from complicated things like Easynews (a web-based front end to Usenet, remember Usenet?). That said there are whole systems where you can basically say you want a certain file, get an NZB file (don't know what that is? check the links) and get your whole tv episode or movie from alt.binaries.tvseries or alt.binaries.tvee

# complicated...

Screen Search | Your Account | Favorites | ZoNews | Videos, Min. Members, Files | Videos, Preferences | Videos Search

Form Layout: Basic | Tabbed | 7 Columns

Keywords: Harry Potter  
Subject:  
Date:  
News/Status:  
Filename: File Set:  
VCodec: ACodec:  
Type:  ARCHIVE  AUDIO  DOCUMENT  VIDEO  EXECUTABLE  IMAGE  
 MISC  FURTY

Apply Your Search Filter  
 Remove Duplicates  
 Enable Starred Keywords  
 Hover Thumbnails  
 Hover Information  
 Collapse Info  
 Group Excludes  
 Light Output  
 Set as Default

Date: Any to Any  
Size: Any to Any  
Cost: Any to Any  
EDL: Any to Any  
Status: Any to Any  
URL: Any to Any  
Runtime: Any to Any

Search Results

**Murdoch mysteries Se 10af1 14 mkv [header]**  
Subject: Mur10myst14 [38/47] "Mur10myst14 part37 rar" yEnc (001/103) (Murdoch mysteries Se 10af1 14 mkv AutoUnRAR)  
Post Date: 04-02-2017 15:39:41  
Group: alt.binaries.tvseries  
Poster: CPP-gebruiker@domain.nl (CPP-Gebruiker)  
Size: 1.8 GB  
Resolution: 1280 x 720  
Runtime: 42m:39s  
Video Codec: H264  
Audio Codec: AAC

[Full Thumb](#)

trying to actually steal content "from online" has a lot of different faces from complicated things like Easynews (a web-based front end to Usenet, remember Usenet?). That said there are whole systems where you can basically say you want a certain file, get an NZB file (don't know what that is? check the links) and get your whole tv episode or movie from alt.binaries.tvseries or alt.binaries.tveeie



# ...or simple

MAHATMA GANDHI & HIS STRUGGLE... BY JOSEPH LELYVELD (EPUB)

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22 minutes ago

**Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle With India by Joseph Lelyveld**  
Requirements: EPUB/MOBI Reader, 4 MB

Outsize, A highly original, stirring book on Mahatma Gandhi that deepens our sense of his achievements and disappointments his success in seizing India's imagination and shaping its independence struggle as a mass movement, his recognition late in life that few of his followers paid more than lip service to his ambitious goals of social justice for the country's minorities, outcasts, and rural poor. Pulitzer Prize-winner Joseph Lelyveld shows in vivid, unmatched detail how Gandhi's sense of mission, social values, and philosophy of nonviolent resistance were shaped on another subcontinent during two decades in South Africa and then tested by an India that quickly learned to revere him as a Mahatma, or "Great Soul," while following him only a small part of the way to the social transformation he envisioned. The man himself emerges as one of history's most remarkable self-creations, a prosperous lawyer who became an ascetic in a loincloth wholly dedicated to political and social action. Lelyveld leads us step-by-step through the heroic and tragic months of this selfless leader's long campaign when his nonviolent efforts culminated in the partition of India, the creation of Pakistan, and a bloodbath of ethnic cleansing that ended only with his own assassination. India and its politicians were ready to place Gandhi on a pedestal as "Father of the Nation" but were less inclined to embrace his teachings. Muslim support, crucial in his rise to leadership, soon waned, and the oppressed untouchables for whom Gandhi spoke to Hindus as a whole produced their own leaders. Here is a vital, brilliant reconsideration of Gandhi's extraordinary struggles on two continents, of his fierce but, finally, unfulfilled hopes, and of his ever-evolving legacy, which more than six decades after his death still ensures his place as India's social conscience and not just India's.

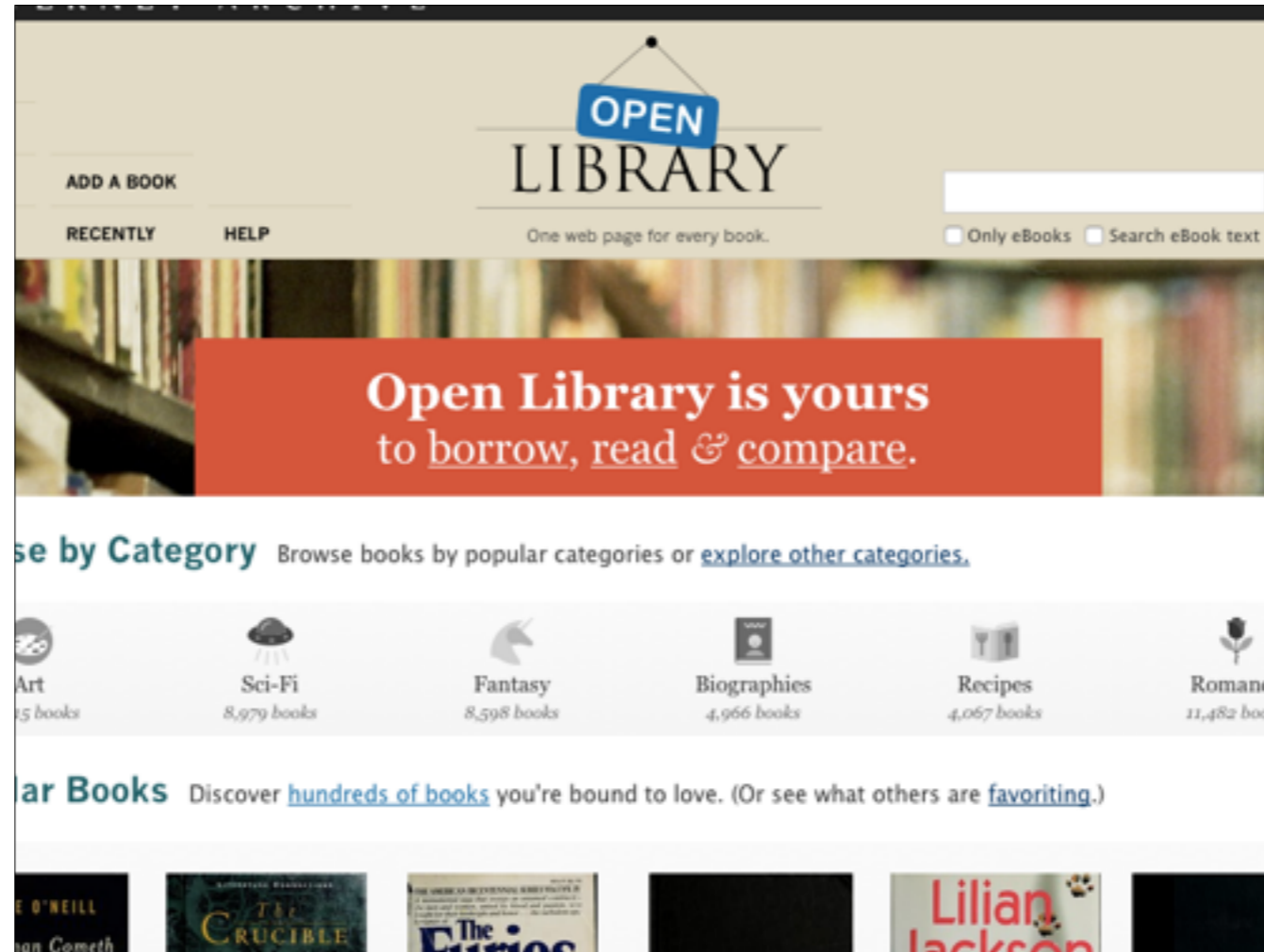
Genre: Biography



Download Instructions:  
<https://fileson.com/yGw4M5G258>

Mirror:  
<http://thuload.com/3psetm9k4z>

To stupid-simple sites like Mobilism. Log in, do a search, download the book, dodging some sketchy download site stuff on the way. A lot of this stuff, though certainly not all, is semi-obscure long tail stuff. People request items and there's a little local economy. The people who provide it get local money they can use for site features and direct downloads of content. So people ARE paying, they're just not paying for the content, they're paying for the container.



The library I used to work at, Open Library, basically made this their thing. Share slightly obscure, maybe orphan works, using real-DRM and complying with takedown requests. They still exist. (and I'd be happy to talk about specifics at some later time). They're slightly more free culture absolutists but their system does work. Sharing, in fact, often works.

“

**Piracy is almost always a service problem  
and not a pricing problem.... piracy is  
basically a non-issue for our company  
[because we have awesome service].**

---

*Gabe Newell, Valve Corporation*

This is a quote from the people who made Steam. Piracy is a real thing, but it's not clear how much of it is a boogeyman and how much is the squid versus whale of market forces battling it out in the face of ever changing technology. The Copyright Office wasted an astonishing amount of taxpayer dollars (pre Dr. Hayden) trying to develop more digital ways to build its Electronic Licensing System. I respect that copyright is real and serves cultural and business purposes. I would like and understanding and acceptance that our patron-based edge cases have legitimate concerns and should not be threatened with fines and jail time for trying to read a damned book.

# Sharing passwords

---

- Netflix
- Xfinity
- Boingo
- Slingbox

Next level...?

34

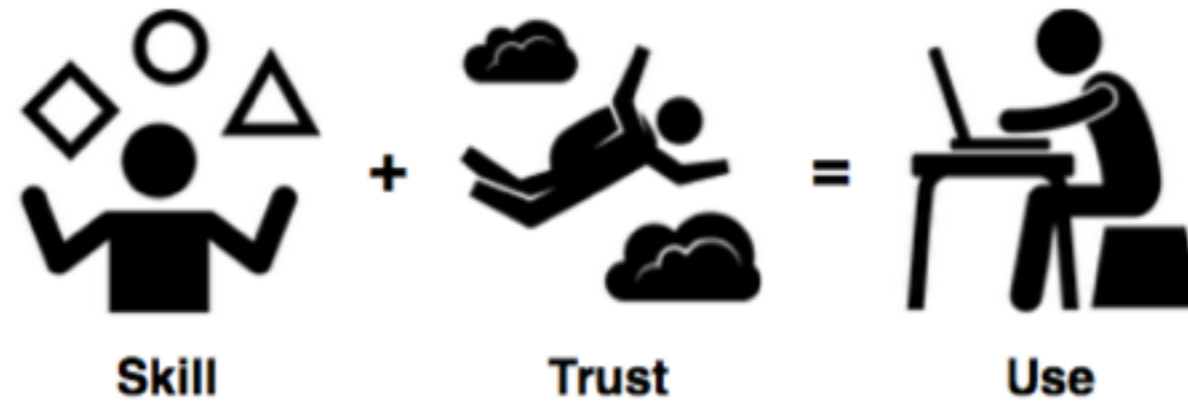
Sometimes there's just basic shit like sharing passwords. Just like I said in my opening slide. But it's not just library passwords, it's Netflix (software keeps people "honest"). Xfinity for wifi anywhere that Comcast is, Boingo for airport wifi and Slingbox for watching your (or someone else's!) TV.

# Sharing tips

---

- Ebooks live on your hard drive if you download them to your computer.
- Removing DRM is technically possible.
- If your media player won't play it, there is probably one that can.
- Googling can often fix your issues.
- Be safe when dealing with sketchy sites on the internet.

## share. help with digital readiness.



The trick with a lot of this is the wink wink aspect to it. ANY time you have an "open secret" as part of how you operate, the people who don't know the secret are excluded. Which is challenging because I want Open Library to continue to exist, but I also want it to be available for EVERYONE, not just the people who can figure out the software or know enough to google "how to crack the DRM" Pew's digital readiness report talks about how being digitally ready (for learning opportunities, etc) is part skills and part attitude and trust. Teaching this is one more part of being a critical, and effective, librarian.

**Jessamyn West**

*librarian.net/talks/danger*

jessamyn@gmail.com

@jessamyn



Thank you!

Thank you.