

The views of the European Booksellers Federation on the European Digital Library Project

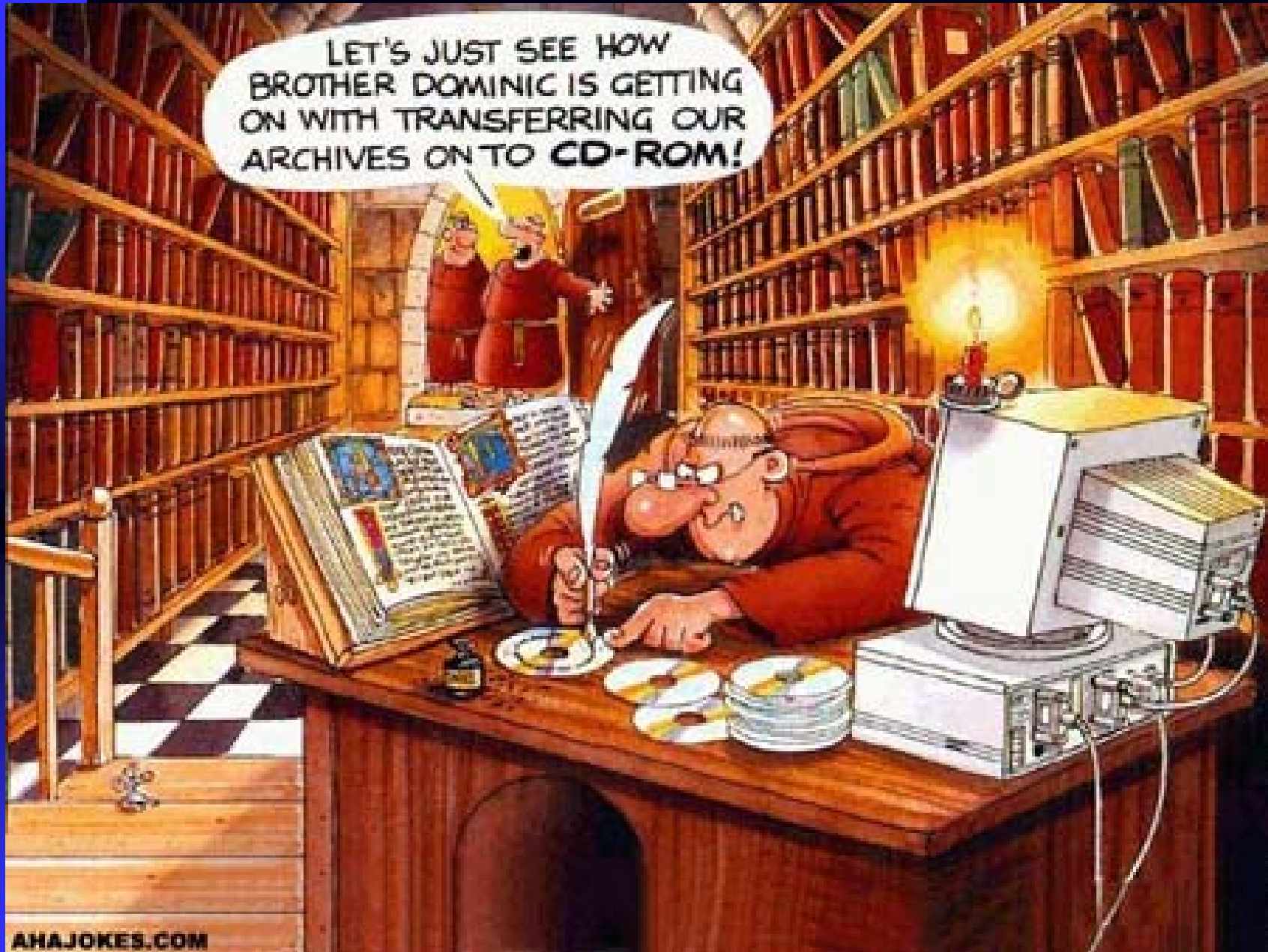
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A great fan of libraries...

- When I was a kid.....
- What libraries looked like ten years ago

LET'S JUST SEE HOW
BROTHER DOMINIC IS GETTING
ON WITH TRANSFERRING OUR
ARCHIVES ON TO **CD-ROM**!



A great fan of libraries...

- How libraries look today....

Glasgow Caledonian Library

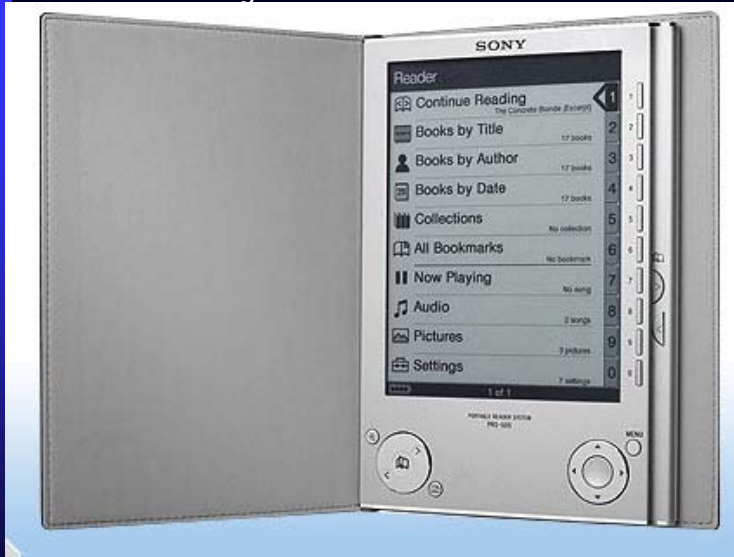
- 1,200 terminals for public use



The European Digital Library: A great opportunity for citizens

- A great opportunity for the dissemination of culture
- Access to a huge number of works, including books. New devices such as the e-reader will allow citizens to carry thousands of books in their pockets.

Sony reader



Kindle - Amazon



iLiyad reader

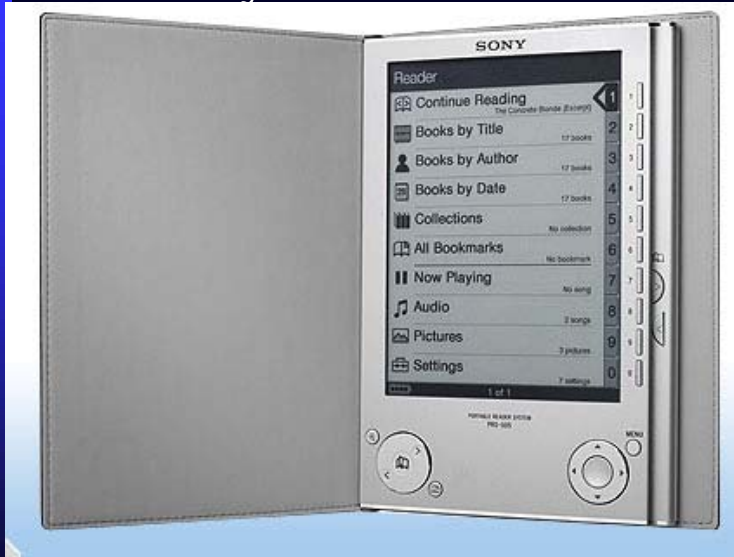
Questions and difficulties

- Protection of copyright: EBF fully supports authors and publishers in their fight in favour of copyright being fully respected.
- The abundance of works is likely to confuse citizens: too much choice kills the choice - who is going to provide guidance?
- “Click, surf and go” generation: risk of strengthening a superficial zapping culture.
- Financial problem: Inequality among Member States, heterogeneous offer to EU citizens.

Maybe it is worthwhile remembering that.....

- A library is a place where you **BORROW** a book
- A bookshop is a place where you **BUY** a book

Sony reader



Kindle - Amazon



iLiyad reader

Recommendations

- The protection of copyright MUST be guaranteed
- Books, which count among cultural goods, are made available in bookshops and are the result of hard work by all the stakeholders of the book chain: authors, publishers, wholesalers, booksellers.
- The European digital library has to recognize this work officially and in practice:
- New business models are to be invented: buy or rent books (or chapters) on-line thanks to hyperlinks to terrestrial and on-line booksellers

Conclusion(1)

- Wonderful opportunity but....
- Do not underestimate the social and educational role of terrestrial booksellers
- Who is going to bother to write, publish or sell books if they all come for free?

Conclusion (2)

- The economic sustainability of the book chain: author-publisher-bookseller has to be preserved for us & for future generations in order to guarantee cultural diversity and creativity.

Thank You!

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