Agenda

1. Overview of Palace Project (Micah May, DPLA)

2. Overview of Palace Marketplace (Micah May, DPLA)

3. Palace in Practice & Research on Models
    (Carmi Parker, WCLS)

4. State library perspective (Mike Buschman, WSL)

1. **Overview of Palace (Micah May, DPLA)**

Libraries are Palaces for the people

The Palace Project is a division of LYRASIS and strategic partner of DPLA, made possible by an investment from Knight Foundation

Vision

We are committed to building a digital future for and with libraries
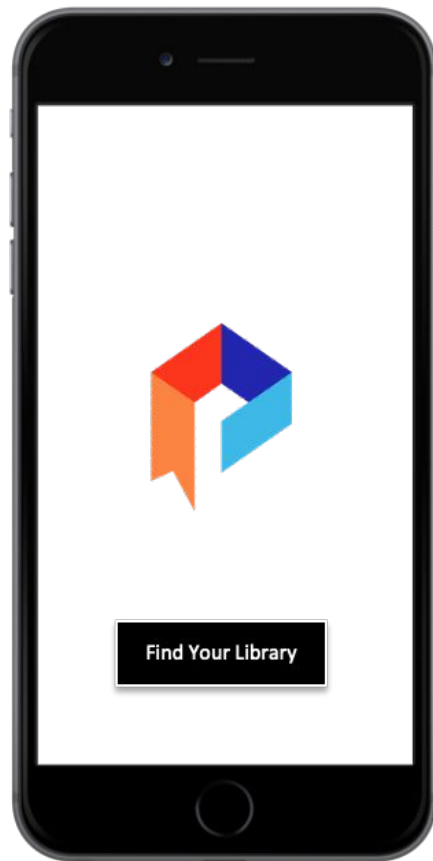
We support maximizing access to all e-content, increasing literacy and reducing the equity gap

Our Goals

- Available to any and all U.S. libraries

- Access to all your digital content through a single platform and app

- Broad and diverse collection of ebooks and audio, with multiple lending models

- Community driven, community owned

Find Your Library

What is the Palace Project?

- **Palace app**
- **Palace Manager**
- **Palace Marketplace**
- **Palace Bookshelf**

The Palace project team provides hosting, tech support, training and promotion

There are three components of the Palace Platform:

Backend

Marketplace and host for for e-content

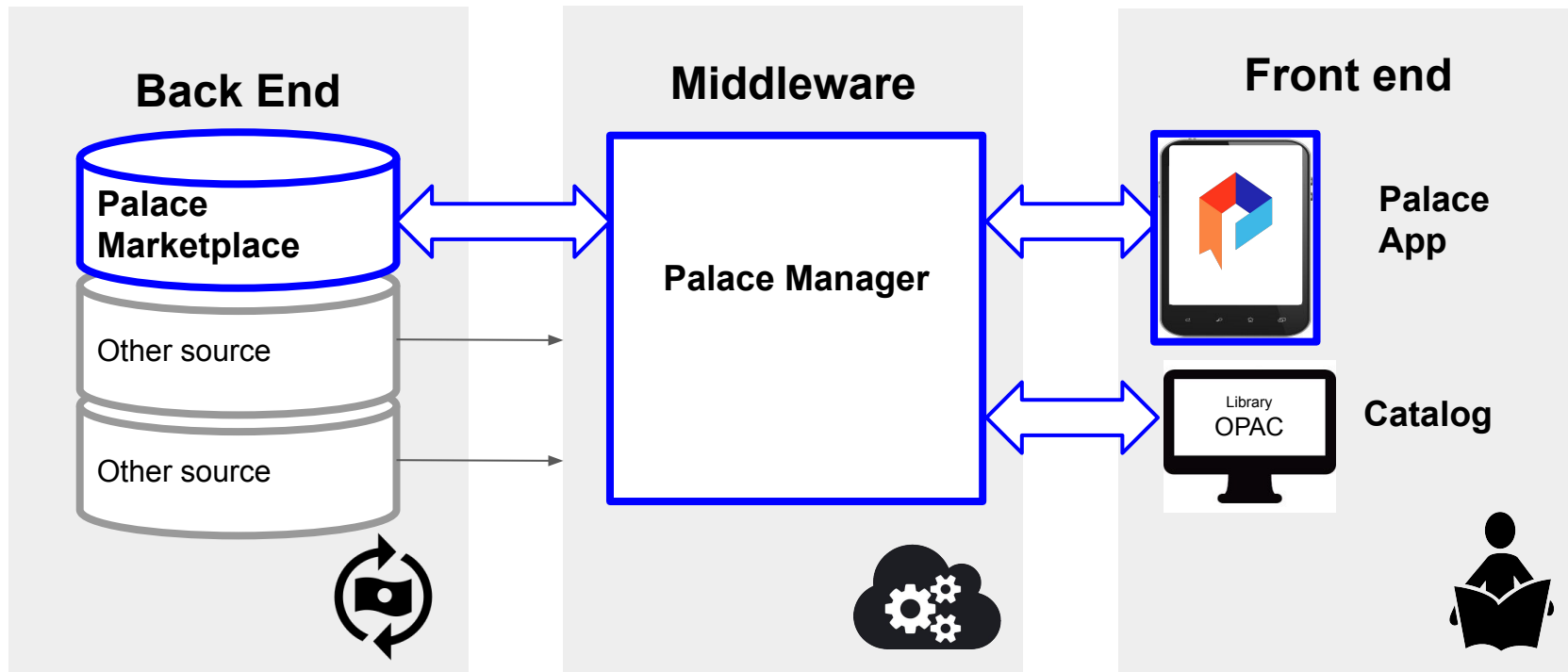**Middleware**

Management portal for library staff

Frontend

Mobile apps and web pages on which patrons find and read content

BACKEND + MIDDLEWARE + FRONTEND

Back End

Palace Marketplace

Other source

Other source

Middleware

Palace Manager

Front end
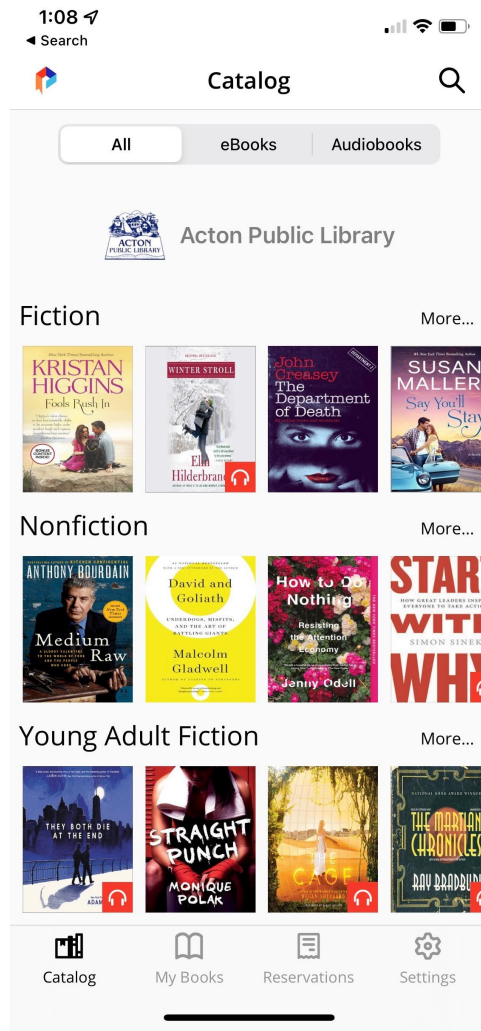
Palace App

Catalog

Library OPAC

Why the Palace Project?

- All major ebooks and audio in single app

- All analytics through one portal

- Integrated with the Statewide collection of over 10k titles

- Be part of a larger community of librarians

The Palace project team provides hosting, tech support, training and promotion

The Palace Project statewide implementations

- California

  www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/ebooks-for-all

- Connecticut

- Maryland (consortia)

- Montana

- New Jersey

- Vermont

- Washington

2. **Overview of Palace Marketplace (Micah May, DPLA)**

Live browser demo

3. Palace in Practice & Research on Models
(Carmi Parker, Whatcom County Library System and
Washington Digital Library Consortium)

Challenges I see with digital books

- Publishers can refuse to license to libraries
  - No E.B. White, no Andy Weir eAudio (yet)
- Prohibitively high prices on Big Five metered access licenses
  - Poor taxpayer stewardship
  - Broad, diverse collection development is difficult
- Publisher pattern of increasing prices and decreasing access
  - Between 2011-2020, the average price of a Big Five eBook license tripled
  - In that time period, all five companies chose metered access licenses for eBooks and two (S&S and Hachette) also chose metered access for eAudio

Several states are pursuing legislation to address these challenges and Washington directors are watching carefully. If you are interested in following those legislative efforts, you can sign up for email updates on readersfirst.org or follow its Twitter feed.

Title	Author	Publisher	eBook price	Print list price	Library print price	eBook markup over list
The Lincoln Highway	Amor Towles	Penguin Random House	$55.00	$30.00	$21.90	83%
Verity	Colleen Hoover	Hachette	$65.00	$16.99	$10.94	283%
Cloud Cuckoo Land	Anthony Doerr	Simon & Schuster	$59.99	$30.00	$21.90	100%
Beautiful World, Where Are You	Sally Rooney	Macmillan	$60.00	$28.00	$20.44	114%
The Lightning Thief (26 ckos)	Rick Riordan	Disney	$17.99	$7.99	$5.96	125%

Title	Author	Publisher	Publication date	2-year license cost
The Pillars of the Earth	Ken Follett	Penguin Random House	1989	$30.00
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	Penguin Random House	1979	$55.00
Tuesdays with Morrie	Mitch Albom	Penguin Random House	1997	$55.00
Catch-22	Joseph Heller	Simon & Schuster	1961	$51.99
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	Simon & Schuster	1953	$51.99

My library's print copy of *Fahrenheit 451* was purchased 12 years ago and had a list price of $23.99. Enabling a digital copy for 12 years costs taxpayers $311.94, an effective markup of 1200%.
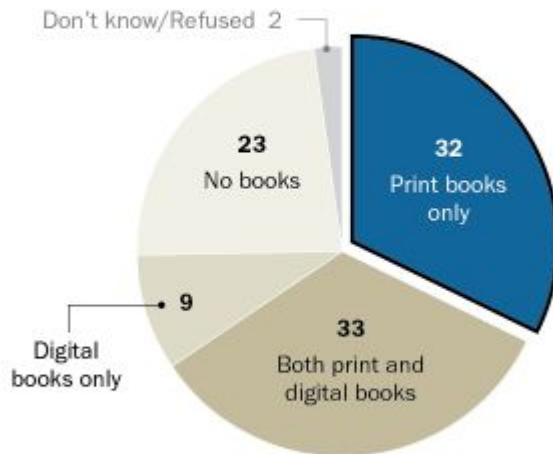
So, we have to license the bestsellers and we have to re-license the classics. How much money does that leave us for making our digital collections as broad and diverse as our physical collections?

Pew Research found that 42% of adults surveyed in 2021 had read a digital book in the prior year. So, we can no longer treat digital collections like they serve only early adopters.

https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/01/06/three-in-ten-americans-now-read-e-books/

A third of Americans say they read both print and digital books in the past year

% of U.S. adults who say they have read ____ in the previous 12 months

Don't know/Refused 2

23 No books

32 Print books only

9 Digital books only

33 Both print and digital books

Note: The "digital books" category includes both e-books and audiobooks.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 25-Feb. 8, 2021.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Why I am interested in Palace for my consortium

- It's a non-profit
- It will have Amazon & Audible books offered on reasonably priced licenses
- They tell me the Palace app will be as user-friendly as Libby
- They are willing to work with libraries on specific requests like packages of diverse books
- It allows us to add content from a range of sources if we choose, or to use shared content such as the WSL collections

4. State library perspective (Mike Buschman, WSL)

Palace Project WA

- All libraries have access to the Palace project platform and app at no cost

- Over 10,000 titles, are being provided by the State

- Connects to your local content providers, ILS, and library card

- Dedicated support team for implementation, training, Patron awareness

How to get started

- Email us at support@thepalaceproject.org

- Join your WA library colleagues in the Palace Community hub
  https://bit.ly/PalaceHub

State Library Program Vision

● Make it easy for libraries in the state to test and try out Palace Project

● Use budget power to reward publishers with more liberal licensing terms

● Help small libraries have more power in the marketplace than they otherwise would have.

● Provide statewide ebook collections that libraries can add to their Palace Project implementations

● Facilitate communication between Palace Project member libraries as well as with LYRASIS account and development teams

● Part of a larger national strategic direction for libraries and ebooks

Washington State Library - Palace Project timeline

● October 2019 – Washington State Library (WSL) released RFP for SimplyE implementation and hosting.

● March 2020 – LYRASIS contracted as technology partner in March 2020.

● WSL (using LSTA funding) provides for the implementation and hosting of SimplyE for any library or library system in the state for 3 years (March 2020 – March 2023).

● 2020 – 7 libraries and systems implemented.

● 2021 – Knight Foundation grant to LYRASIS to take SimplyE to the next level

State Library Collection

- Over 10,000 titles

- Most available as simultaneous, multi-user licenses

- Amazon Publishing titles

- Available to all participating Palace Project libraries in Washington

Thank you for attending!

For more information:

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