

# THE EFFECTS OF EXTRAORDINARY PANDEMIC ACCESS TO DIGITIZED COLLECTION

COVID 19 temporary "open access"

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# ENGLISH X CZECH E-BOOKS

## **Charles Uni**

- A small percentage of e-books available in Czech, not every field of education is covered
- Needs of basic study texts in Czech (absolutely essential for some fields, e.g. pedagogy )

## **Czech language**

- Small language group
- Internationalization of publishing habits - the trend to publish in English
- No national-level service (both commercial and uncommercial) for academic/library e-book access
  - Platforms often offer access only for the individual user
  - Problem authentication

# COVID: NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY (DL)

## March 2020

- Super-fast agreement between National Library and [Theatre, Literary, Audiovisual Agency, Association](#)
- DL was opened for universities via eduID (Czech academic identity federation) - this access was based on agreements between National Library and universities
- „Social“ DRM
  - No printing
  - No downloading

**...really turbulent days...**


## June 2021

- DL was closed (unconditionally)



Beginning of the pandemic

Everyone: "We can handle this!"



June 2021 (the end?)

Publisher: Close it! It threads us!

# UNIVERSITY PRESS: EXPERIENCES

- Increase interest and awareness of e-books
- Extension of license agreements for printed editions by e-form
- The quality e-book can be a reason for interest in a printed book
  - Readers are interested in quality, not in material type
- Charles Uni e-books (Karolinum University Press)
  - Available for Charles Uni's students: EBSCO & ProQuest platform
  - For different users: cooperation with other platform (for some publication)
    - + SSO
    - can be expensive

# VIOLATION OF THE DL LICENSE TERMS

- 8 000+ unique users from Charles Uni
  - 3 violation of the DL terms cases – suspicion for robotic downloading
  - 2 actual violations – misuse of open source code and its modification for personal use
  - 1 super-interested and persistent reader – manual downloading of huge data amount for language researches
  - 0 unauthorized distribution

**→ The "open access" is not abused as often as publishers fear**

# CONCLUSION

- **We were (involuntary) part of the huge e-resource experiment in the CR**  
**→ it helped to confirm some of the long-term assumption**
- COVID enhanced the interest in DL
- COVID enhanced the interest in e-resources in general
- The main target for professional publication is the academic community  
**→ confirmed**
- The Ministry of Education emphasizes the availability of educational texts in the Czech language for students in the ministry's strategies
- Publishers prepared for academic access (SSO) have an advantage  
**→ confirmed**
- Trials (not only COVID ones) can be decision changers  
**→ confirmed**
- "Social" DRM works - maybe even better than technical one, which is often very expensive **→ confirmed**

**→ BE SAFE & BE PREPARED!**