



# Connecting the dots to overcome access using OPDS

CNI Lightning Round 2024 - James English | Lyrasis



Ebooks & Community Engagement

A division of  **Lyrasis**

# What is OPDS?

“*Open Publication Distribution System (OPDS)* is an **open standard format used to syndicate electronic publications**, allowing for **easy discovery, aggregation, and acquisition of digital books** through a **simple catalog format**, typically based on the **Atom syndication standard and HTTP protocols**. **Essentially, it's a way to distribute digital content like ebooks across different platforms in a standardized manner”**

Credit: Google AI

# Why OPDS?

## Today we use legacy technologies designed for Print

User access relies on

Redirects to captive vendor portals, Web Apps with multiple logins, features, and UX

Discovery in library Catalogs relies on metadata using

3 Different File types: ONIX, MARC, KBart

Encoded data for descriptions

Automated data exchange using FTP (**1971 File Transfer Protocol**) or

Manual vendor portal downloads or email

System and business “Integration”

Vendor specific APIs

Manual workflows to figure out deltas and load into updates into system

Multi-party vendor FTP setup coordination

## However - with OPDS - we use modern technologies native to the web

User access relies on

Any Native app for Mobile and Desktop or Web Reader Apps

Discovery in ANY Discovery or Reading system using

Single file type JSON

No encoded values,

Open taxonomies with scheme.org

System interoperability

Publisher direct to Aggregator, user or discovery system

Aggregator Direct to user or discovery system

Metadata syndication format based on ATOM (**circa 2005**)

Can be dynamically or statistically published & consumed



# Ok...so its new. What else?

- OPDS is **publication agnostic** and designed for **digital content**
  - **It can support different media types:** video, text, audio, image, web
  - **It can represent different publications types:** Periodicals, monographs (books), albums, tracks, articles (see schema.org taxonomies)
  - **It can represent publication relationship & organization:** Series, Volumes & Issues, Collections
- OPDS supports **DRM and Non-DRM** transaction and content links
- OPDS provides **accessibility metadata** about a publication
- OPDS provides **license information & availability** information for a publication
- OPDS provides **link objects** to endpoints and other data:
  - **At the document level:** authentication & authorization, reporting, tokenized access, other OPDS collections
  - **At the publication level:** DRM endpoints, content, images, other OPDS files of related publications

# How we are connecting the dots with ODPS?

- **For the community at large**

- Advance OPDS use and the standard for libraries, publishers, aggregators, reading systems, & library systems content services to further interoperability (e.g NISO and ISSO)
- Use OPDS to advance simplified access & integration into discovery systems for the open access movement and publishers:
  - E.g. OAPEN, KU Open Research Library, FULCRUM University Presses,
  - Public Domain collections (Palace Bookshelf, Standard eBooks, Internet Archive, Guttenberg)

- **For Lyrisis Members, Clients & Partners**

- Provide simple mobile reader access to library holdings & collections
- Integrate licensed collections from Springer, ProQuest, Palace Marketplace, Magazine & Newspaper services, Audiobook Publishers) into a common reader experience
- Integrate internal & external partner content services & systems

# Thank you!

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## Learn more at:

OPDS Community: <https://specs.opds.io/>

The Palace Project: <https://thepalaceproject.org/>

The Radium Foundation: <https://radium.org/>

OPDS 2.0 Draft: <https://drafts.opds.io/opds-2.0>



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