An Update from Project LEND:

Unlocking the Potential for Digital Books in Higher Education

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I just need the **bibliographies** from 10,000 books on my research topic…

I want to **download the chapter** I need right now, not place an ILL request…

I want to **do my *own* data mining**, rather than having to work through HTRC's mediated process…

Reading a book cover to cover

Mediated data mining

Our vision

I want to **convert this chapter to an audio file** so I can listen to it while I'm folding laundry…

I want **AI** to characterize which titles in a corpus of books are relevant to my research…

I just want to **apply translation utilities** other than Google Translate to this passage I found…

I just need access to this book for **a few minutes** – to see if it's interesting, to check a citation, why does it matter?

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Project LEND
(Library Expansion of Networked Delivery)

- Landmark research project to investigate the potential for **expanded lawful use of digitized books** held by academic and research libraries

- Two-year project launched in 2023, supported by the Mellon Foundation ($1.1 million) and **led by the University of California libraries**

- Began with a rigorous **user needs assessment** led by a faculty member at UC Irvine and a broad **legal analysis** led by a faculty member at the UC Berkeley School of Law

- Seeks to enable services that would be **broadly useful** across higher education and beyond — not particular to UC

Project outcomes

November 2024: Public webinar

- Share research findings from our user research, as well as some of the contours of our legal and technological research domains

    - **Goal:** Get community feedback on our findings to inform our work products

January 2025: Publication of two work products

- **White paper of the user research findings**

    - **Goal:** Inspire action and advocacy across our industry, especially where entities other than libraries need to respond

- **Service plan**

    - **Goal:** Lay out potential paths forward to serve user needs better

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Key concepts

- Project LEND seeks to expand lawful access – after **due diligence**.

- Project LEND outputs include both **investigatory research** (e.g., identifying what users ideally would want) and **applied outcomes** (e.g., a service plan for implementation).

    - In particular, we began with rigorous **user research**

- We are **collaborating with HathiTrust deeply** and consulting with stakeholders to check our assumptions and direction.

Thank you!

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