

## WHAT MAKES SOUTRON DIGITAL SERVER UNIQUE?

**Soutron Digital Server (SDS) combines Digital Rights Management (DRM) and Library Management workflows to provide a comprehensive system to maintain full control over the downloading and distribution of electronic content, whilst retaining ownership of that content.**

SDS is designed entirely from the Information Service's perspective and is a unique product that takes into account the needs of both information managers and system users.

### **Do you own the content you have purchased?**

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eBook platforms have been designed to accommodate the needs of the publisher more so than those of libraries and information services. They provide access to an impressive number of titles aggregated from a variety of publishers. That said, subscribing to such a service often limits the number of eBooks that can be provided to users unless services subscribe to multiple platforms. The subscription determines the degree to which the content can be 'purchased'. The aggregator's platform hosts the electronic copy of the title, requiring the end user to always download it from the

host platform. When subscriptions are terminated, the eBook that has been 'purchased' is no longer accessible and the investment is lost. In instances such as this, the word 'borrowed' would be more accurate than 'purchased'.

Unlike other eBook platforms, SDS facilitates cost-effective purchasing of titles from any provider in PDF and ePUB formats, creating a lasting investment. Electronic holdings can be transferred to and from SDS simply and easily.

### **Anywhere anytime access**

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Many services catalogue the eBook titles they subscribe to and provide a link to the aggregator's platform from within a record. If a search is performed from within the catalogue, this can mean that end-users end up interacting with multiple interfaces, each with their own functionality, authentication and access options. Alternatively, if a search is performed on the aggregator's platform, the end user will still be faced with stumbling blocks as they may seek access to content that the information service does not have a licence to use.

Aggregators have a complex system of 'credits' or 'tokens' to provide users with access to content. This has to be monitored to ensure enough 'credits' are available which can be difficult to budget for.

SDS uses Adobe technology to provide anywhere anytime access on all devices, without the need for proprietary eReaders. This provides the end-user with the flexibility to use whatever device they choose.



## User led or resource led reporting?

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It is normal for a platform to provide either end user led or resource led reports. Services are largely unable to monitor statistics on users and their patterns of use, as this information is gathered and held on the aggregator's platform.

SDS puts control of statistics back in the hands of the Information Service, delivering both of these reports, providing vital information that can be used to influence spend and saving. Having one without the other can give a distorted account of usage and trends. For example, a single user could be

downloading the same or similar titles regularly. Resource statistics may indicate that certain titles need further investment due to their high usage, when in reality it may be that only a small number of users are accessing these titles. Equally, the end-user report may show users having high usage rates, when in reality they are not; they are merely repeatedly downloading the same title.

By displaying the two reports together in SDS, you get a full 360° view of usage and trends of your content which allows more informed decision making.

## Structured and organic search

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Most systems allow access to materials based upon collections and/or groups of content being allocated to particular groups of users. This does not facilitate organic searching where a user may wish to cross subject areas, or a librarian or information manager

may wish to link one digital piece of content with another. SDS allows a high degree of cross-referencing between records and pieces of content giving freedom to maximise the catalogue content across the entire user community.

## Flexibility and security

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Systems in the market today have very restrictive distribution workflows. Users have no choice over the file type, how they view it or on what device. These factors are usually predetermined by third party 'readers'.

SDS has been designed to address the need for a variety of distribution methods and controls to determine policies for each publisher's content.

There are choices over the file types on offer and the type of device on which to read content. The SDS 'Management Console' is a one-stop solution with the controls to ensure security is in place to protect both

information services and publishers. The administrator of SDS can decide:

- Who sees what content
- How many times it can be viewed
- On what devices it can be viewed
- How many times a user can copy/print
- The period of time they have access to it

If certain texts or documents need to be provided to users en masse, for a particular schedule programme, it can be easily set up to run automatically.



### In summary, Soutron Digital Server:

- Handles PDF, EPUB & EPUB3 file formats. There are no restrictions limiting the titles that may be purchased or where they may be purchased from.
- Ownership of content remains with the Library or Information Service that purchases a perpetual licence.
- Publishers are reassured, by the DRM controls, that they can safely release content.
- SDS offers access anywhere at any time. It is a 24 x 7 x 365 operation.
- SDS offers combined end-user led and resource led reporting.
- A highly flexible database is incorporated to control metadata and improve searching.
- Access level permissions can be dynamically set to meet organisation needs.
- Files downloaded from SDS can be used on all types of devices.
- SDS includes 'push' distribution settings. The administrator can 'push' titles and content to a designated group of users at a pre-determined time and date.

Soutron continues to build and develop functionality in line with client needs. The quality and breadth of our client base and our close relationships means we are well placed to bring new initiatives, based on practical experience, to the market. This combined with our use of new technologies makes SDS an exceptional solution.

To find out how Soutron could transform your eContent management and distribution strategy, **get in touch:**

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