

Annotation for Sample Content and Interoperability of Owned eBooks
Position Paper for Second W3C Workshop
on Electronic Books and the Open Web Platform

Shinya Takami, Ph.D.
BOOK WALKER Co.,Ltd. (KADOKAWA group)

[Annotation for Sample Content]

Background:

Sample eBook contents (for preview before purchase) are usually generated automatically by each store's criteria, such as 10% of text from the head. However, some kinds of books are not suitable for the automatic samples. Preparing samples as other EPUB files will require extra time and cost and is not available for some stores. The situation prevents from permitting to deliver such contents.

Position:

In eBook samples, we need to remove a couple of illustrations at the front in light novels (one of the popular genres in Japan) because they are core value to motivate customers to buy light novels. And 5% of text from the head is too short and fixed 10 pages from the head is too long when the book consists of less than 20 pages.

We would like to propose to make the standard of annotation for sample content so that we can instruct how to make samples, which parts are available for samples, to stores.

[Interoperability of Owned eBooks]

Background:

There are many publishers and over 20 eBook stores in Japan. The product lineup is different because each store needs to contract with many publishers and several eBook file formats have been used for years. Thus customers use two or more eBook stores and their libraries are distributed. On the other hand, store and viewer are strictly combined by each store's DRM and customers worry about the risk that they cannot read own eBooks if the store closes their business. Such situation seems to be a kind of barrier to expand this market.

Position:

KADOKAWA group as publishers desires to reduce the inconvenience of distributed libraries and to get rid of the risk for customers by improving the interoperability of owned eBooks. BOOKWALKER, our eBook store, has already started to share customer's library with some other stores so that customers can read the KADOKAWA group's eBooks on our viewer even if they were purchased at other stores.

We would like to propose to make the standard of sharing libraries in order to expand the interoperation to other publishers and eBook stores.