The SimplyE & Palace Project Overview

What is SimplyE?
SimplyE is a library-developed, open source eBook/eAudiobook app that simplifies the experience of finding, borrowing and accessing library eBooks and eAudiobooks. It is vendor/publisher agnostic, meaning libraries can aggregate content from various sources and share with patrons in one singular e-reader.

Early Development/History
- Library Simplified was developed in 2012 by The New York Public Library and nine partners with ILMS grant funds. In 2015 a larger group of libraries joined and expanded the Library Simplified work and they called themselves the Library E-Content Access Project (LEAP).
  - Library Simplified is a collection of middleware, server software, collections management tools and mobile client applications for iOS and Android that libraries use to deliver e-books and audiobooks to their patrons. It is designed to be integrated with existing technologies and systems common to libraries such as an Integrated Library System/Library Management Systems (ILS/LMS), Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) or Single Sign On (SSO) credential management system. It connects to commercial e-book hosting and distribution services such as Overdrive, Baker & Taylor's Axis360, bibliotheca's cloudLibrary, and Digital Rights Management products such as Adobe, LCP and Findaway.
  - SimplyE is the free-to-use e-reader that library patrons download to their mobile devices and use to browse, borrow and read library e-books. It is the end-user interface of the Library Simplified suite of software tools that libraries can use to manage their e-book and audiobook collections.
- New York Public was the first to launch the SimplyE app in 2016.
- 3 consortia host and implement the SimplyE platform for libraries: Amigos, Califa, and Lyrasis
- SimplyE is compatible with most library e-book and audiobook providers, including:
  - Baker & Taylor Axis360
  - cloudLibrary by Bibliotheca
  - DPLA Exchange
  - EBSCO NoveList
  - BiblioBoard
  - Odilo
  - OverDrive
  - RBDigital audiobooks and ebooks
- SimplyE reads Adobe PDFs, plays audiobooks, does not read Kindle Books or work on e-ink devices.
- Over 400 libraries are set up for SimplyE but over 3/4 of them are still in the "sandbox" stage and are not live.

Current State of Affairs
- June 2021, Lyrasis and DPLA announced a split from SimplyE and the creation of their own project, the Palace Project, funded by a $5 million investment by the Knight Foundation.
- New York Public Library will continue to use and develop SimplyE.
- The Palace Project provides access to open content for free through the DPLA Exchange and Open Bookshelf.

- Lyrasis uses the SimplyE opensource software and will develop it for the Palace Project. As of now, Lyrasis will be the only host of the Palace Project.
- The Palace Project will include the following:
  - The Palace App - A free patron-facing ereading application for iOS and Android launching in Fall of 2021.
  - Palace Circulation Manager - Software that connects a library's book collections with the patron-facing Palace app, handling authentication and combines vendor purchased materials with open-access materials.
  - Marketplace - The DPLA Exchange is a non-profit ebook and audiobook marketplace. Titles from major publishers and dozens of independent publishers, as well as Amazon Publishing, are available in the DPLA Exchange.
    - Exclusive Amazon content from Amazon's self publishing division to be offered for purchase: https://amazonpublishing.amazon.com/
  - Implementation and Hosting - Lyrasis will provide implementation and hosting services through Amazon Web Services.