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Charting Strange Lands: The Acquisitions of e-Books

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Charting Strange Lands: The acquisitions of e-books

By
Kate Seago
University of Kentucky Libraries

Background

- E-journals have become known quantity, not problem free or without complications, but more of a known quantity
- E-books are still very much an unknown quantity with endlessly variety.
- Increase demand for online materials
 - Online courses
 - Interest by users

Considerations

- Do you opt for packages or title by title?
- How many platforms do you want?
- Are records added to the catalog?
- If you have electronic, do you get print?
- What about DVDs, E-Readers, and mobiles?
- How do publishers and libraries decide on a business model?

Considerations

- What happens to ILL if the book is an e-book?
- What about patron driven acquisition models?
- How much duplication between e-books?
 - Same title on multiple platforms
 - Overlap between collections
- License agreements

E-Books on CD or DVD

- **Conference proceedings**
- **Federal documents**
- **Accompanying material to a print book**
- **Handle them like other media in most cases**

DVDs & CDs E-Books

- Treat like other media
- Circulate like media
- A lot of material on one disk
- Read it on a computer screen
- Software to read the books
- Instant gratification?
- Licenses

Packages/Collections

- These are collections or groups of electronic books organized by subject and/or publishers
- The library owns the data, but not necessarily the platform

Packages or Collections

- Economical way to purchase e-books
- A lot of books purchased at once
- Define what you have
- Cataloging often included
- Vendor records
- Platform
- Access Fee
- Overlap with other collections, individual purchases, etc.

Reference Materials

- Many reference materials as moved online became databases or e-journals
- There are several encyclopedias, handbooks, etc that are published as e-books on a variety of platforms
- Back files and volumes can be economically purchased with some careful shopping

Reference Materials

- E-books can be shared across multiple sites
- Search within a platform
- Reference Universe (search across print and electronic – ISBN based)
- Readily available to online classes and off site users

Leasing Models

- Lease a collection
- Good way to keep content current for handbooks, manuals, etc.
- Access not ownership
- Subscription cost becomes annual cost with the usual price increase

Leasing Models

- How do you keep librarians and users up to date on what is in the collection?
- Maintenance of the catalog records since they need to be updated as the collection is updated

Lending E-books

- E-readers such as Kindle, Nook, iPad, etc.
- Do you lend the device along with the book or do you just lend the books and let patrons supply the device?
- Length of circulation
- Policies

HarperCollins Problem

- Announcement that after 26 uses the e-edition would be deleted.
- Library would have to purchase a new edition or another copy
- Claims to mirror the print situation
- Librarians not buying the explanation

Patron Driven Acquisitions

- Collection of records are added to the library catalog
- Certain number of clicks, length browsed or other trigger means the library purchases the item
- Records for items not purchased can be removed and newer items added

Pros and Cons

- Buy what users want
- Provide easy access for the off campus user or at home user
- Instant gratification factor
- Control the pool the selections are made from
- Overspend or quickly deplete allotments
- Too easy to purchase the book inadvertently
- Safe guards to prevent duplication with print or other e-collections

Conclusions

- E-books like e-journals are here to stay
- Still be volatile for awhile as we work our way through best practices
- Preservation issues
- Not limited to text – searching, hyperlinks, embedded images, etc.
- Potential of mobile devices

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