



Selection and Deselection in the Digital Age

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What's at stake?

- E-books, e-journals, databases are here to stay, and not getting any cheaper
- Readers' attitudes and behaviors toward e-books are still shaking down
- Availability of e-publications affects print usage, ILL and other practices



Collection management of digital resources

- The established collection development guidelines still hold
- Complications do arise





Content

- Quality indicators
 - Peer review
 - Librarian/professional review
- Consistency between print and electronic versions
- Currency and frequency of updates
- Bundled titles



Pricing

- No standard for pricing models
- One-time payment, ongoing, or both?
- Content vs. access fees? Per-use charge?
- Beware the introductory “teaser” price!
- Non-cancellation clauses





Content and pricing are only part of the picture

- Usability
- Modes of access
- Permanence of access
- Supplementing vs. replacing print titles
- Licensing terms





Usability

- Ease of navigation
- Searching ease/capabilities
- Printing/downloading
- Title-level URL access?
- If it requires significant end-user training, is it going to be used enough to justify?



Usability, cont'd

- Playing well with others
 - Summon
 - WorldCat
 - API, Z39.50
- Ease of sharing
 - Format
 - Licensing
 - (How, exactly?)





Licensing terms

- Usage restrictions
 - ILL, reserves, course packs
- Length of contract, non-cancellation clauses
- Jurisdiction
 - Maryland & Virginia: UCITA
- Indemnification





Modes of access

- IP validation vs. password, registration, etc.
- Number of simultaneous users
- How are limits enforced?





Permanence of access

- Access to backfiles (additional cost?)
- Access post-cancellation/termination
- Vendor or publisher archives
- Reliability, uninterrupted access
- Who bears responsibility for archiving?
- Language in license agreement?





E-titles supplementing vs. replacing their print counterpart

- Vendor may require purchase of print and digital together
- Print may offer permanent access, or content missing from digital
- Print and digital may serve different needs/different users
- Digital replacing print shouldn't sacrifice content, access, reliability, quality...



Looking ahead

Patron-driven acquisition of e-books

- Program must be well planned, promoted
- Recent studies bust some myths/concerns
 - High use frequency
 - Wide audience (many users per title)
 - Balanced range of subject areas



Looking ahead

- Paradigm shift from “just-in-case” to “just-in-time”
- New technologies → new techniques
- Changes in staffing and workflows
- Less content, more discovery?



What's on *your* mind?

Thanks! Questions? Comments?



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