Publishers and university libraries: working together to meet the demand for e-books

informationpower

Research sponsored by Jisc

The problem: Students may receive reading lists consisting of 30 or 40 books. Librarians desperately want to satisfy student demand by providing more e-books, but face several challenges.

What this focus group will discuss

- Demand for reading list material in e-format
- Discovery and metadata issues
- Collection building in the modern library
- How librarians purchase
- Top 3 criteria for librarians
- Key challenges for librarians
- Key challenges for publishers

Interactive focus group

- To share with everyone, please unmute to speak or post comments in the chat box
- Or if you prefer, use the chat box to privately address your comments to the facilitators
- No comments received during this focus group will be attributed

- Our research found a huge demand for e-books versions of titles on reading lists
- E-books are needed, in addition to print, to meet faculty and student demand, for distance learners and those with print impairment
- Librarians are frequently unable to find or acquire around 50% of the titles they need

Are you aware of the demand from libraries for e-books?

Librarians (76% in our survey) prefer to search and purchase through an e-book aggregator

Ideally aggregators under the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC) framework agreements for e-books

Are there issues for publishers in dealing with e-book aggregators?

What do you think may help to address this problem?

All the librarians we interviewed and surveyed work proactively to obtain reading list titles in e-format

Frequently they cannot find the titles they are looking for

Librarians top three criteria for e-book purchase

1. **E-book pricing:** Preference is given to suppliers who offer transparent and affordable pricing – librarians do not want pricing based on the cost of print copies – it doesn't make sense to them
2. **Ease of access:** No intrusive DRM (including copying/printing rates that are at least the same as CLA). Libraries want multi-user licence models that enable broad access
3. **E-book usability:** Preference is given to best on screen reading experience, based on feedback from students

Any surprises?

Is this a trend you have noticed in the UK and elsewhere in the world?

- Librarians have adopted a “just in time” approach
- Librarians are reluctant to acquire bundles

“In HE very few academics are prepared to allow the content we have purchased to dictate their teaching; it’s the other way a round and they expect us to purchase the titles they want to use.

Having to buy a bundle when we might only specifically want, say, 10% of its content is not a good use of our very squeezed book funds.”

Analysis of the reading list titles librarians are searching for in e-format shows that 32% were published before 2000

Backlist titles

Do you make backlist titles available as e-books?

If not, would you be interested in having more data about the demand for these e-books?

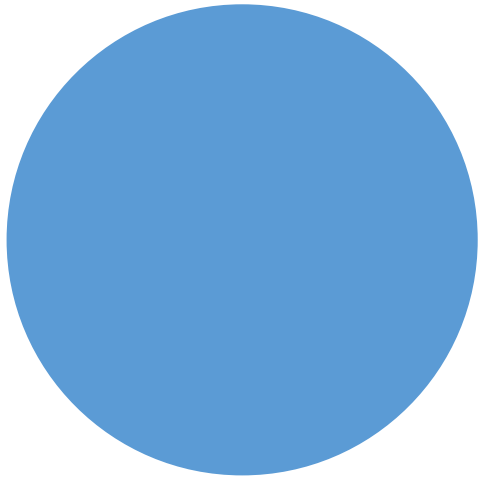
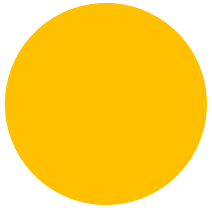
What are the barriers to making older titles available as e-books?

What are the challenges for publishers in meeting library demand for e-books?

For example

- Lack of direct connection with libraries
- Author attitudes
- Rights management
- Corporate polices
- Lack of resource
- Google/Google Scholar

What would help you overcome these challenges?

Thank you for your time and expert input