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People Profile: Rob Withers

Editor

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Libraries which dropped print subscriptions noted that many students seemed comfortable (or even preoccupied with) electronic titles. One respondent observed "print journal access is rapidly becoming a non-issue... we currently have ca. 5x the number of online journals. Electronic delivery is expected." Another respondent observed that her library received "little comment on the print titles. Most users (students in particular) prefer online journals and are pleased that we have so many—although it's NEVER enough." One institution explicitly noted that they viewed the cancellation of print titles duplicated electronically as an opportunity to provide funds for additional titles.

Some libraries surveyed believed that few significant changes in providing print titles are likely to occur in the near future (11.5%). One community college stated that although they believed that there would be fewer print titles, maintaining browseable access to core titles was so important that remaining print titles would need to be even more prominently featured. Others noted that they did not believe that they would be increasing the number of print titles available (20%), and that print copies would be as prominently located (11.5%). One third (34.6%) indicated that online delivery would become even more popular.

Off-site storage
Like eliminating print subscriptions to titles available in electronic format, the use of storage facilities provides an opportunity to free up storage space, if not funds for new subscriptions. Approximately 40% of libraries responding to the survey had access to off-site storage, with several others mentioning on-site storage facilities or locations for older/less heavily-used titles separate from the main journals area. Individuals with the power to determine transfer to storage include librarians or librarians working together with faculty members (20% of responses each). Factors which contributed to decisions to transfer titles to off-site storage facilities include the date of publication for the volume (36.4%), usage (18.2%), availability of space for print volumes (18.2%) and availability of online versions of periodicals (36.4%).

Policy for Transferring to Storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Online availability</th>
<th>Space issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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</tbody>
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local importance, heavy use in classroom assignments, and cost for retaining the print subscription (5.6% each).

Policy for Overlapping Print/Electronic Subscriptions

Always 7%
Do not cancel 14%
Evaluate based on criteria 79%

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>