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the rapid proliferation of pricing models with skepticism. After all, how many different models do we really, really need? But Rick also asserts that simpler is not necessarily better. Libraries need to take a more holistic approach when evaluating the value of staff time involved in handling so many different types of deals. It may cost us a bit more to figure out a wide variety of models, but if the result is big savings, then we may be getting much more out of the deals than we put into them.

As Library Relations Manager for Duke University Press, Kimberly Steinle gives a vendor's perspective. Her in-depth analysis of pricing for their Scholarly Collection yields insight into the kinds of decisions that publishers must face as they develop a model that will keep their business going while keeping their customers happy. Kimberly also describes what happens when a pricing model fails to be viable, and how a publisher makes a transition to an alternative model.

Finally, Scott Rice, Networked Information Services Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, surveys the pricing terrain in the rapidly growing arena of eBooks. Scott delineates three major models and describes an innovative approach, and analyzes the importance of Digital Rights Management (DRM) in pricing models and license agreements.

Although these four authors have different backgrounds and perspectives, their articles share a common thread — there are numerous pricing models, and libraries and publishers alike must devote resources to understanding their complex options. Like it or not, we are all dining at a restaurant with lots and lots of items on the menu. It's going to take time and energy to make decisions, but that time is well invested. If libraries and publishers don't spend the requisite time to understand the menu, they might end up with an unpleasant surprise on their plate!

Electronic Resources Pricing: A Variety of Models
by Christine Fischer (UNC Greensboro) <christine_fischer@uncg.edu>

Building and maintaining library collections is increasingly complex. Determining pricing for physical resources actually housed in the bricks and mortar facility is relatively simple. In contrast, libraries must select electronic resources that range from databases to online journals to eBooks, and these information tools are purchased using pricing models that tax every library with their variability. Are we to be charged by use, individual title, or package? Is our institution quoted a charge based upon enrollment as a whole or the number affiliated with the program for a specialized resource? The possibilities seem to be growing as libraries, publishers, subscription vendors, aggregators, and others continue to respond to the changing information resource and access environment.

Cheaper by the Dozen?
Journal titles can be selected individually.

With a thorough knowledge of the library's user community, this option seems reasonable. Focus can be given to the particular disciplines or subject interests that engage patrons. With un-