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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 librarians, 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-