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Profile-Lorraine Huddy

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Evaluating PDA as a Viable Collection Development and Acquisitions Model

Ascertainment PDA's sustainability potential in the libraries meant examining how well the PDA profile had performed in terms of providing titles that fit CTW's collection development needs. A financial assessment was needed to determine overall costs and savings while considering any desired outcomes for collection development.

PDA profile assessment: Do MyiLibrary titles fall within CTW's profile parameters? Do purchases fit within CTW's overall collection development goals? How many purchases are used by two or more campuses?

• Data Collected: MyiLibrary titles were reviewed; if questioned, OASIS (Counts' title knowledge base) provided how it matched CTW's PDA profile. Prices were checked to assure they did not exceed CTW's cost parameter. For use across consortium, IP numbers were monitored (see “Usage by each library and across CTW”).

• Success and Limitations: Profile matches had to be checked title-by-title, so this occurred only if a title seemed out of scope. Then parameters were tweaked to resolve profile issues. Overall, the shared profile has been a success: most titles fit within the scope of CTW's print collections. The only recurring issue is from price increases after eBooks are added to the PDA program. Counts has taken steps to monitor eBook prices more closely, send notifications, and offer the option to purchase or deactivate the title in question.

Unique titles vs. overlap with CTW holdings: Are MyiLibrary eBooks providing access to new content? How many MyiLibrary purchased titles are unique to CTW holdings?

• Data Collected: CTW holdings were checked manually to determine how many MyiLibrary purchases were unique to the consortial collection.

• Success and Limitations: To increase the likelihood of purchasing unique MyiLibrary content, Counts' de-duplication service removed any titles held in duplicate or triplicate across CTW; however, this customization could not be automated, so CTW agreed that only eBook holdings would be de-duplicated. Since this increased the possibility of purchasing the same title in eBook and print, gathering data on unique MyiLibrary titles ended after de-duplication changes were implemented.

Usage by subject area: Are certain LC subject areas getting more activity than other areas?

• Data Collected: Titles Viewed and Sessions by LC Subject Area (compared to all active MyiLibrary titles)

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