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## Group Therapy -- Purchase vs ILL for Newer Books

Jack G. Montgomery

Western Kentucky University, [jack.montgomery@wku.edu](mailto:jack.montgomery@wku.edu)

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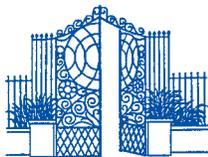
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Rumors  
from page 8

and sports history. There will be several representatives of **Ingram** in Charleston and in the **Vendor Showcase** on Wednesday afternoon!

[www.nebraskapress.unl.edu](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu)

**This is also very relevant!** Ithaka has just released a report on **print collection management in the wake of digitization**. "**What to Withdraw: Print Collections Management in the Wake of Digitization**" analyzes which types of journals can be withdrawn responsibly today and how that set of materials can be expanded to allow libraries the maximum possible flexibility and savings in the future. **Roger** will be talking about this in Charleston!

<http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/what-to-withdraw>

Speaking of **Roger**, BTW, his four-month-old daughter, **Scheherazade**, is a fast-growing bundle of joy but it's been a long time since they have had a real night of sleep! Let's all ask to see some pictures when we see him in Charleston!

And with all this talk of "e", I was captivated by a charmingly gorgeous little

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## Group Therapy — Purchase vs ILL for Newer Books

Column Editor: **Jack G. Montgomery** (Associate Professor, Coordinator, Collection Services, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>

**Column Editor's Note:** *We are reviving this column in **Against the Grain** due to reader demand. Do you have a gripe or an issue you'd like **Group Therapy** to address? Would you like some advice on how to handle something? If so, please write me at <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>. You can identify yourself or remain anonymous, but either way, you'll get an answer. — JM*

**GRIPE:** Submitted by **David Stern** (Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Resources, **Brown University, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library**, Providence, RI)

After reviewing our recent ILL transaction logs it seems we are failing to obtain approximately 20% of our requested materials because they are too new to be loaned on ILL.

I am wondering how many libraries are now purchasing books that are recently published rather than requesting them on ILL.

If any libraries have policy statements about purchase vs ILL for newer books I would greatly appreciate seeing this information. I will compile the results and send a summary back to those interested.

**RESPONSE:** Submitted by **Narda Tafuri** (Acquisitions & Continuing Resources Librarian, **The University of Scranton, Weinberg Memorial Library**, Scranton, PA)

Our library purchases are driven by what our faculty request. Sometimes they have a book they have gotten through ILL and then want the library to purchase a copy for our own collection. I am not

really aware of any cases where faculty are trying to do an ILL for a book and it is too new to be available. Generally, if they see that something is new, and they want it, and their department has the funds, they request that it be purchased. I suspect that they often would rather purchase a title that might be readily available via interlibrary loan rather than do an ILL for that item because we allow faculty to keep items for an entire academic year. Actually even beyond that point. Whereas, they know, if they do an ILL for an item that they may not be able to keep for as long as they want it.

**RESPONSE:** Submitted by **Kathleen E. Richardson** (Professor, Technical Services Librarian, **Bluegrass Technical and Community College**, Lexington, KY)

If the request is for something new (i.e., a potential ILL problem), we evaluate the request to see if the item would fit into the collection. If I'm not the subject liaison for that area, our ILL wrangler or I will ask the appropriate librarian or one of our faculty who's active in collection development for that subject about the suitability of the item. An inexpensive item or one we would probably have purchased anyway we will order immediately, as long as it's readily available. (This isn't formal--our excellent ILL wrangler makes the initial call based on number of holding libraries, just how new the item is, etc. We won't be asking any library to loan us a copy this week of **Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol***, for example.)

If the budget is exhausted or the item is too expensive or outside our

collection's scope, when we fill out the OCLC ILL request form online, we check the policies directory for each of the libraries whose codes are going into the lender string. Most libraries seem to keep their policies up to date, so we avoid asking for new materials if the holding library's policy states it doesn't lend them. If it will lend new materials, we'll also look at the holding library's catalog to learn the status of the item via the links to local catalog sites from OCLC's ILL system, since there's no point in asking for something that's checked out, on order, or on reserve. (We want the requests we send out to have the best possible chance of being filled the first time around, which spares everyone frustration and doesn't waste the time of ILL staff at lending libraries who have to process requests.)

**RESPONSE:** Submitted by **Eleanor I. Cook** (Assistant Director for Collections & Technical Services, Academic Library Services, **Joyner Library, East Carolina University**, Greenville, NC)

Our Library has been doing "purchase on demand" for books that fall into this category. Our ILL and Acquisitions departments have a procedure worked out to do this. If you are interested in the particulars I suspect I could get more detail, but from what I know of it, it works well and helps both areas achieve their mission. I believe that ILL actually is authorized to do the purchasing but then they feed the information back to Acquisitions somehow.

