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People Profile: Kristen DeVoe

Editor

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library also receives the electronic version, have the potential to change a library's decision-making process on this issue. Using guidelines can help library staff and faculty make well informed and carefully thought through decisions. Without some policies clearly iterating the criteria that electronic journals must meet before the print can be cancelled, libraries risk making reactionary decisions in the face of budget constraints, space constraints, and increasing user demand for electronic access. Guidelines on this issue not only help libraries make print cancellation decisions, they also help libraries make print retention decisions. When the electronic version meets the requirements outlined in the policy, libraries know they can cancel the print subscription, and for those titles that do not meet the requirements, the library knows to retain the print subscriptions.⁷

Consistency

Respondents to the author's October 2005 survey reported that consistency was a key benefit to having a written policy for decision making on the issue of canceling print subscriptions when the electronic version is also received. Guidelines can ensure that library faculty and staff apply the same criteria to each journal title under consideration. For libraries that have subject liaisons responsible for some collection development decisions, a set of guidelines will provide each liaison with the same basic set of criteria to consider when making print subscription cancellations suggestions or decisions.

Time Saving

Academic libraries spend a considerable amount of time discussing and evaluating print journal titles for potential cancellation. Without a document to outline the criteria that library faculty and staff should consider when making cancellation decisions, discussions as to whether or not to cancel the print version of a journal can become circular and frustrating for those involved. Guidelines force all involved parties to start from the same page when considering a print version of a title for cancellation. Referring to the same criteria when making a decision can save time for everyone involved in the decision making process either by reducing the number of people required to be involved, or by reducing the amount of time spent by decision-makers on each issue related to print subscription cancellation.

Enhanced Communication

When print journal subscriptions are being considered for cancellation because the electronic version is also received, faculty and students are not always aware of the decision making process. A major benefit of having a written policy on this issue is that they can help explain cancellation or primary-format changes for individual titles. Guidelines explain why decisions are made and provide validation for those decisions. It is helpful to include faculty and students in the decision-making process so that they are aware of the criteria that are considered and how decisions are made. When faculty or students question why a title has been

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BORN & LIVED: Born in Cincinnati, Ohio but moved shortly after to Louisiana. I have lived in New Orleans, LA; Johnson City, TN; Charleston, SC and now I am in Pittsburgh, PA.

FAMILY: Father, **Michael DeVoe**, and mother, **Rebecca DeVoe** live in Jonesborough, TN; brother, **Stephen DeVoe**, is an engineering student at **Louisiana State University**. Fiancé, also **Stephen**, is a PhD student in Theatre at the **University of Pittsburgh**.

EDUCATION: B.A. in History with a minor in Asian Studies from the **College of Charleston**, MLIS from the **University of South Carolina**.

FIRST JOB: First job ever was at a pizza place in Johnson City, TN. First job in a library was in Charleston, SC at the **College of Charleston** in the Collection Development department.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Since I moved to Pittsburgh a couple of months ago I've been working part-time for **Tutor.com's Librarians by Request**. I have recently become involved with writing a new (for me) column in *Against the Grain* called "Innovations Affecting Us" and another survey column in *The Charleston Report*. I belong to several library organizations/associations such as **ALA**, **NASIG**, and **PaLA** and I try to attend conferences when I can.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Knit, read, exercise, bake, and search for new music to listen to. I also find myself spending quite a bit of time wondering how I am going to make it through my first Pittsburgh winter!

FAVORITE BOOKS: Anything by **Carson McCullers**, *Abarat* by **Clive Barker**, and many many more!

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Right now I feel that my most meaningful career achievement is writing for publication.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Transition from print to electronic resources will continue with serials. I think that many libraries will reach a point where they cannot financially maintain multiple formats and since many users are asking for electronic versions, print cancellations will increase. I also think that format standards will begin to emerge for electronic books. 

cancelled in print, they can refer to the guidelines to understand how and why decisions are made. Many institutions make their policy available online so that students and faculty can easily access them when they have questions.

Criteria to Consider

The decision to cancel a print journal subscription when the electronic version is also received is one that must be made thoughtfully. There is no "one size fits all" list of criteria that can be included in a set of guidelines to advise decision making on this issue. It is important to take local institutional and user considerations into account, to evaluate subscriptions on a title-by-title basis, and to continuously ask for faculty input during the evaluation and comparison of the two formats. As mentioned earlier, flexibility is also important when writing a policy intended to advise selectors on this issue. There may be factors not originally considered when writing the guidelines that come up when print journal subscriptions are actually under consideration for cancellation. It is important that policies are not so restrictive that consideration cannot be given to any unanticipated issues. Guidelines should also be flexible enough to change with the industry so that

they do not become outdated and useless in a short period of time.

When creating a policy to advise decision-making, libraries may want to develop a philosophical statement on the issue of canceling print subscriptions when the electronic version is also received: this could include a statement of the economic challenges faced by the library due to maintaining dual format subscriptions; it could also include a statement of general preference for the electronic format over the print format if this is applicable; a preliminary statement can also include information on what the library plans to do with the print copies it already has, where a user can go to discuss a particular title with a library faculty or staff member, and statements on why the library feels it is appropriate (if it does) to move some subscriptions to electronic only access.

What can be included in a set of guidelines if every title is unique and should be considered individually? What follows is a list of criteria, by no means exhaustive, that academic libraries may consider for inclusion in their policies and guidelines. These criteria were developed based on a review of the online guidelines

continued on page 40