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Thinking Outside the Building


by Rob Withers (Assistant to the Dean & University Librarian, King Library 225, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056)

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The survey was emailed to librarians with responsibility for collection development or to the director of the library. Responses were received from twenty-six institutions. Close to half of the responses (46%) came from public institutions. Three quarters (77%) offered four year degrees, half (50%) offered graduate degrees, and slightly more than two thirds (68%) had a graduate enrollment exceeding 10% of the undergraduate enrollment. A majority of institution sizes were represented, with sizes of less than 2,000 students (29%), 2,000 - 5,000 students (46%), 5,000 - 10,000 students (44%), and more than 10,000 enrolled students (11%). Institutions with less than 5,000 students included a mix of those offering two-year, four-year, and graduate degrees; approximately one third (31%) were state-assisted institutions. Only one institution with 5,000-10,000 students responded to the survey; and institutions with more than 10,000 students include a mix of two-year institutions and institutions granting bachelor's and advanced degrees; all of these institutions were state-assisted.

Challenges in Providing Access to Journals

The idea of paying a slight surcharge for providing access to electronic and print formats has become less attractive in tight budget times, and budget constraints have caused many libraries to re-examine the desirability of maintaining overlapping subscriptions to print and electronic versions of the same journal title. Eliminating overlapping subscriptions can free up money which can be used for other titles—or for maintaining existing subscriptions. However, libraries must consider risks inherent in relying exclusively on electronic versions of journals. Some electronic journals may include advertising, which is not easily or at all possible in print versions.

Questions & Answers

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Copied from a source but was really an original work compiled from a variety of sources. Citing the original source for these terms is not necessary unless the library is trying to be absolutely accurate and indicate the origin of terms as in the OED and other reference works. Another consideration might be the purpose of the glossary. For example, if it is aimed at students, they are less likely to be concerned with the origin of the term than if the audience are librarians, faculty or scholars.

Question: A faculty member has received thirty-six microfilm reels containing the Papers of Charles Sumner, 1811-1874, through interlibrary loan to use for research for a work he is writing. How much may he copy under fair use?

Answer: If these papers were unpublished, they are now in the public domain. Works that existed as of January 1, 1978, but which were never published, passed into the public domain at the end of 2002 or life of the author plus seventy years, whichever is greater. For these papers, it would be the end of 2002, and they would now be public domain. If the papers were published, however, it is the publication date which would determine whether the work is still under copyright. Even if the papers were still under copyright, making copies for scholarship would be covered under fair use applying the four fair use factors. Amount and substantiality used is one of those factors, but there is no absolute in number of words, reeks or percentages that qualifies as fair use. A court applies all four factors to determine whether a particular use is a fair use.

Local Environment

Libraries in Ohio benefit from membership in OhioLINK, a statewide consortium which includes most academic libraries and some special libraries such as the Cleveland Clinic.</usr>
Announcing...

Alibris Collection Award

The Alibris Collection Award is an annual grant of up to $3,000 worth of books to an academic, public, special, or K-12 library supporting specific collection development projects that advance the mission, priority areas, and goals of the selected library.

The purpose of the Award is to help provide materials for libraries with replacement projects, retrospective collection development projects, or routine collection building needs.

Procedures and Deadline for Award Applications

Each applying library must provide:

- A statement of not more than 300 words concerning the general nature of the desired collection, and the particular need for grant support.
- A list (in electronic format) of the desired titles, ideally cross-checked against the Alibris in-stock inventory.

Award applications should be submitted via email (to libraries@alibris.com), and must be received by December 1, 2003, so that the winning library can be selected and the award announced at the ALA Midwinter 2004 Meeting.

Administration of the Award

The Award is to be administered by the Alibris Collection Award Review Committee, appointed by Alibris, and currently including Michael Keller, University Librarian, Stanford University; Mark Sandler, Collection Development Librarian, University of Michigan; Richard Weatherford, Chairman and Founder of Alibris; and Jack Walsdorf.

For More Information

Website: http://www.alibris.com/library
Email: libraries@alibris.com
Toll Free Phone: 1.877.ALIBRIS (1.877.264.2747)
Deciding what to do with titles available through the aggregator or database is more challenging. The majority of institutions leaned toward retaining subscriptions to print versions. However, some institutions indicated that availability of titles through an aggregator could impact decisions on whether to subscribe to print versions or where to house them. One library that chose to send titles available through aggregators to storage. Several institutions indicated that the availability of materials through an aggregator might impact selection decisions, with one institution noting that they discuss the availability of titles currently available through an aggregator if faculty requested a print subscription to a title, and one institution indicating that they planned to broach plans to cancel print versions with faculty to determine their interest.

At the other end of the spectrum, 19.2% indicated that they did not end print subscriptions also available through an aggregator. The most frequent issues studied by institutions who considered ending print subscriptions were the ability to archive issues in the event that the aggregator ceased to provide access (30.8%) and completeness of content for each journal title (15.4%). Other issues included difficulty in browsing by issue through aggregator databases (7.7%) and timeliness with which new issues became available (3.8%).

Libraries which retained overlapping subscriptions to print and electronic versions noted that the print copies of collections remain browseable, and stressed the importance of browseability to their users. One respondent noted that some faculty members encouraged students to browse journal titles in a particular subject area in order to locate articles; eliminating print subscriptions might result in students overlooking potentially useful articles. Another liberal arts college noted that their user base included many traditional users, although students were increasingly using electronic journals. In some cases, only core titles were available in both formats, although some community colleges strongly believed that it was important to retain a fully-browsable journal collection.
Two-thirds of libraries with off-site storage report that hard copies of either individual articles or the entire volume requested by the patron are delivered. One institution noted that people were appreciative of this opportunity because bound journals housed within the library did not circulate. Several institutions (8.8%) reported that articles could be faxes and several (8.8%) also indicated that electronic delivery had been implemented. One institution also expressed interest in adding electronic delivery of information.

Some branch campuses of larger institutions who had access to off-site storage indicated that they did not use these facilities because they currently had sufficient space for journals within their library. Institutions which did use off-site storage noted that people were generally pleased with the service. Advantages cited for relying on off-site storage include more effective use of space within libraries (10%) and increased ability to protect collections (5%). Several institutions noted that patrons were generally satisfied, in some cases noting feedback from the LibQUAL+ study recently conducted at OhioLINK institutions or surveys administered to first year or graduating students.

However, many of these institutions (19%) expressed concerns about the staff hours required to shift, maintain, and deliver titles transferred to storage and 15% were concerned about delays inherent in shipping titles to patrons. One respondent observed “Generally patrons know we can get pretty much whatever they want within a day; however, I am sure they would welcome delivery of articles.”

In addition to these efforts, libraries also have made efforts to minimize space needed to store journals one site, with nearly all institutions reporting at least some use of microforms, usually for newspapers or older, little-used titles. Although not specifically asked about compact shelving, two institutions mentioned its use. Once institution noted that older, pre-1980 volumes were housed on another floor of the library, separately from more recent volumes. Although this freed up valuable space elsewhere in the library, the survey respondent noted that some patrons were unaware of the more remote location and simply concluded that the titles were not available.

Relocation of older or less frequently used titles need not impede the usefulness of the journal collection to patrons. One community college responding to the survey noted that “Few students do extensive research requiring long runs of titles. Most research done by students depends on currency rather than quality.” Interestingly, similar comments were made at a recent statewide conference for colleges and universities. When an audience member noted that many students would try to find and use only those articles available online or in the library, rather than articles in storage, a panelist noted that for many first-year student papers (for example position papers on abortion, the death penalty, or other social issues), the depth of resources housed in storage facilities might not be needed. In fact, the panelist noted, the existence of the depository might sometimes deter students from using outdated materials, while making them easily accessible to graduate students and faculty who require these sources for their research.

Conclusion

Scarcity of space and funding are challenging libraries to explore alternative mechanisms for providing access to print copies of journals. Canceling print versions of journals available in electronic format, reducing storage space by using compact shelving or microformed journals, or storing journals all provide opportunities for saving time and/or space in libraries. Academic libraries in Ohio have ample access to electronic versions of journals, and in many cases, to offsite storage facilities as well. Both of these resources are the product of collaborative efforts among libraries. Reaction to using these resources is predictably mixed, although most institutions, particularly medium- to large-sized ones, have taken advantage of canceling print titles and storing journals. Primary concerns about these strategies include the ability...
RISKY BUSINESS
by Sandra Beeher (Lewis & Clark College)

Japanese entrepreneur Masayoshi Son lost most of his multi-billion dollar fortune when the dot.com bubble burst, but going bust has not diminished his eagerness to pursue risky visions. He spent more than $2 billion building an Ethernet network that offers high-speed (12 megabits a second) DSL access to ordinary consumers in Japan at very low cost. Along with Internet access, he offers voice-over-IP (in direct competition to piggybacking on existing phone networks) and is poised to deliver TV and video-over-IP services. Already deeply in debt, Softbank (Son's main holding company) has had recourse to some suspiciously creative accounting and been forced to sell off some of its more lucrative holdings. Son may be setting the pace in this game, but there is doubt as to whether he can stay the course.

See — “Fat Pipe Dream” by Brendan I Koerner in Wired, Aug 2003, p. 84-86.

EIGHT YEAR CAVE QUEST
by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

It took eight years to overcome floods, drought and bush fires, but Paul Tacon and colleagues at the Australian Museum in Sydney finally reached Eagles Reach at Wollomi National Park in New South Wales to document 4000-year-old cave drawings first discovered by a bush walker. Accessible only on foot over mountainous terrain, the 203 images include charcoal drawings of kangaroos and lizards, and depictions of half-human, half-animal creatures.


LAVA LAMP LOTTERY
by Sandra Beeher (Lewis & Clark College)

Lotteries, polling, simulation, encryption—all make use of the mathematical phenomena known as random numbers. Generating a sequence of numbers with no recognizable pattern may sound easy—and indeed it can be done with a pair of dice—but skyrocketing demand in the twentieth & twenty-first centuries has fueled the search for ever more efficient random number generators (RNGs). Currently many RNGs use some source of white noise as the base for their sequences. In 1996 Landon Noll, a cryptographer at Silicon Graphics, introduced a system based on Lava Lites (lava lamps). This year Noll and fellow expert Simon Cooper came up with an even more sophisticated RNG called LavaRat, which employs a Webcam with its lens cap on, and which they are giving away at www.lavarat.org.


STOP THE STRUGGLE
by Sandra Beeher (Lewis & Clark College)

The coming to power in 1989 of Liberia’s Charles Taylor marked the beginning of fighting that has spread from Liberia to surrounding West African countries of Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Guinea. The French stepped in to maintain a fragile peace in Ivory Coast, likewise the British intervened in Sierra Leone; Guinea’s government managed to sustain itself. The article presents a strong argument for U.S. intervention to get rid of Taylor before the continuing bloodshed in Liberia again spreads to the entire region. In fact, Taylor and Liberian forces loyal to him have been the instigators of much of West Africa’s recent struggles; it is time for them to face the consequences of their deeds.


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to obtain archived versions of electronic titles in the event the vendor loses licensing rights or no longer does business with the library. The existence of a statewide organization with an archive of a substantive number of titles helps to mitigate this concern—with out such a capability, the attractiveness of ending print subscriptions might diminish. Some libraries also are concerned that patrons may not have access to a full run of journals, either because electronic copies are not browsable in the stacks, or patrons comfortable with the Internet will not browse hard copies of journals. Concerns with offsite storage center on browsability and on concerns that delays in obtaining articles might deter patrons who might otherwise have used the articles. Nevertheless, feedback has been largely positive. Libraries responding to the survey frequently noted that the most frequently expressed concerns about titles were that patrons wanted more titles and/or that they wanted more available electronically—something that these strategies may help to enable.

Endnotes
4. Ackerman, L.G. "Is Age an Appropriate Criterion for Moving Journals to Storage?" Collection Management 26:3 (Fall 2001) 176-177, 189.
5. Ackerman, J.B. Also discussed in Alexander, Julie S. "Highlights of the ALCTS CMDS Collection Management Issues for Offsite Storage Discussion Group." Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services v.23 no1 (Spring 1999) 129.
8. Hill, 32.

FREE U.K. RESEARCH REDUX
by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

For 80,000 U.K. university researchers, the news is good: The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and BioMed Central have forged a landmark deal which will waive the normal article fee for any U.K. researcher publishing in any of BioMed’s open access journals. Along with the National Health Service (NHS) deal forged in March (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/pr-releases/?pr=20030306), this agreement increases BioMed Central’s institutional membership program to over 300. Architects of the deal believe that not only will research be more readily available, but will also reduce the costs to institutions for journal subscriptions, allowing them to shift dollars to more critical areas.