Patron-Driven Acquisitions

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Recommended Citation
Arch, Xan (2011) 'Patron-Driven Acquisitions,' Against the Grain: Vol. 23: Iss. 3, Article 5.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5883

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Patron-Driven Acquisitions

by Xan Arch (Collection Development Librarian, Reed College) <xanadu@reed.edu>

Are you tired of hearing about patron-driven acquisitions yet? PDA and DDA (demand-driven acquisitions) seem to turn up everywhere these days — in conference sessions, vendor visits, and library literature. You’re thinking, how much more can there be to say? You’ve heard so many librarians talk about their institution’s great success with PDA or their abysmal failure. What’s the big picture?

Well, take a look at this Against the Grain issue. It’s not your mother’s PDA.

We’re kicking it off with Bob Johnson and his discussion of the basics of the patron-driven model. He will give you newbies an idea of what matters when considering a patron-driven plan and what to watch out for.

Jason Price, on the other hand, isn’t sold on PDA yet. In his article, he proposes a new model for patron-driven plans that would free the content from restrictive digital rights management (DRM). It may take a superhero to do this, but Jason, the DRM-imator, is up to the task.

PDA seems new and trendy but what happens with a patron-driven collection over time? Peter Spitzform at the University of Vermont has been running a PDA program since before you even knew PDA existed, and he tells us about how the model evolves. He presents data about the University of Vermont’s program as well as an exact measure of the effect of PDA on their collection.

Michael Levine-Clark also discusses how to maintain your PDA collection over time and what libraries will need if we want to move more of our collections dollars to demand-driven models. If PDA is here to stay, how do you make sure you have the right content for your users year after year?

How will patron-driven acquisitions affect scholarly publishing? Rick Anderson and Sandy Thatcher have been giving this a lot of thought, and they debate the question in these pages. Rebecca Seger and Lenny Allen also discuss how patron-driven acquisitions affect scholarly publishing, but they present the publisher’s perspective and challenges.

Finally, what could be more challenging than running a patron-driven acquisition program that covers thirty-six libraries? Emily McElroy and Susan Hinken are part of the Orbis Cascade Alliance consortium’s demand-driven acquisitions team, and their article discusses the Alliance’s search for an effective eBook strategy.

Big thanks to all the authors who turned out such great work, and especially to Jesse Holden, my most valued colleague, who reviewed and edited these submissions with me.

If Rumors Were Horses

Guess one of the biggest things that has happened recently is the merger of EBSCO Publishing and The H.W. Wilson Company. Is this an ideal match? The companies seem to think so. Wilson databases will be loaded onto EBSCOhost over the coming months. EBSCO will continue to maintain WilsonWeb until such time that all Wilson databases are available on EBSCOhost and customers have been transitioned to EBSCOhost. Those of us on the library acquisitions/leasing side of things hope we won’t see accompanying pricing increases! Watch for our interviews and see the full press release at http://www.against-the-grain.com/2011/06/ebSCO-publishing-and-the-h-w-wilson-company-make-joint-announcement-of-merger-agreement/

Also — burning up the ciber waves is the litigation between Georgia State University, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Sage with some financing from the Copyright Clearance Center. The plaintiffs have requested an injunction which would limit the amount of copying by professors that could take place without paying licensing fees. Currently professors make copies based on fair use guidelines. As Kevin Smith states in his blog, the case was completed as of June 9, and a decision is expected over the summer. http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/05/23/university_presses_and_academic_publishers_keeping_pressing_georgia_state_on_copyright_issues http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/category/copyright-in-the-classroom/

Related to this case is the recent statement of principles regarding document delivery released on June 9 by Georgia State University, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Sage with some financing from the Copyright Clearance Center. The plaintiffs have requested an injunction which would limit the amount of copying by professors that could take place without paying licensing fees. Currently professors make copies based on fair use guidelines. As Kevin Smith states in his blog, the case was completed as of June 9, and a decision is expected over the summer. http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/05/23/university_presses_and_academic_publishers_keeping_pressing_georgia_state_on_copyright_issues http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/category/copyright-in-the-classroom/

What To Look For In This Issue:
Looking Beyond eTextbooks .......... 42
Righthaven: Wrong Model.......... 56
eBooks and Memory: Down the Rabbit Hole............................................. 83
Interviews
Deborah Kahn.......................... 44
Phoebe Ayers........................... 48
Profiles Encouraged
Xan Arch................................. 14
Jason Price............................... 18
Michael Levine-Clark................. 26
Susan Hinken........................... 30
Emily McElroy........................... 36
Deborah Kahn........................... 46
Adam Chesler........................... 64
Publisher Profile – BEP............... 82