EPIC Online Publishing
Use and Costs
Evaluation Program

Overview

- Overview of Evaluation Program
- Research update
Purpose of EPIC Evaluation Program

• To investigate how online electronic resources affect different aspects of the scholarly communication process.
  a) general perspective
  b) through lens of EPIC projects

How Does the Shift to Electronic Resources Affect the Following Groups?

• Publishers
• Administrators/Information Technology
• Librarians
• Faculty
• Students
Research Approach

• Interviews
• Focus Groups
• Surveys
• Weblog analysis

Research Projects to Date

• Student Interviews
• Faculty Interviews
• Librarian Focus Group
• Librarian Online Survey

http://www.epic.columbia.edu/eval/
Librarian Online Survey

Methodology

• a 15 minute online survey of librarians was conducted in Winter, 2002
• 3,120 e-mail invitations sent to librarians at 1267 higher education institutions
• All were librarians at institutions that are either CIAO or Earthscape subscribers, or have been identified as being potential subscribers
• 1007 respondents (response rate: 32%)
Objectives

• Gain insights into the purchasing of online electronic resources.

• Gain insights into how online electronic resources affect the role of the librarian.

• Learn what librarians perceive as the benefits and disadvantages of online electronic resources.

• Gain insights into how online electronic resources affect the role of print resources.

Respondent Profile
Gender/Number of Years as Librarian

How long have you been a librarian?
- More than 20 years: 11%
- 11 years - 20 years: 69%
- 1 year - 10 years: 38%
- 0% - 20 years: 31%

Gender
- Male: 61%
- Female: 39%

Type of Institution/Library

Type of Library
- Main Library: 51%
- Special/Branch Library: 13%
- Other: 3%

Type of Institution
- Four-year College: 39%
- Research University: 84%
- Community College: 3%
- Other: 10%
What are your current roles? (check all that apply)

Purchase of Electronic Resources
What funding sources are used to pay for electronic resources at your library? (check all that apply). Asked only of those whose roles include ‘Library Administrator’ or ‘Collection Development’.

Money is Diverted From:

Where is the money diverted from? (check all that apply). Asked only of those who specified that money for electronic resources came from other items in the library budget.
The Decision to Purchase an Electronic Resource

How important are each of the following factors in your library’s decision to purchase an electronic resource? Asked only of those whose responsibilities include reviewing, evaluating, recommending, or approving the purchase of electronic resources.
Key Findings: Purchase of Electronic Resource

- Money is primarily diverted from serials and books to pay for electronic resources
- Content relevance to the library’s collection is the most important consideration when purchasing an electronic resource
- Issues related to ease of use are least important when purchasing an electronic resource

Library Staffing Needs and Librarian Responsibilities
Library Staffing Needs Have Changed

How have electronic resources and the Internet directly changed your library’s staffing needs? (check all that apply)

- Added information technology staff
- Added a webmaster
- Added a site licensing specialist
- Electronic resources have not affected staffing needs
- Added a data management librarian
- Increased staffing in order to be ‘open’ 24/7
- Reduced the overall number of full time staff
- Other
- DK/NA

Librarians are Taking on Many Responsibilities Related to Electronic Resources

Which of these responsibilities related to electronic resources do you carry out? (check all that apply)

- Instruct users
- Review/evaluate for purchase
- Recommend for purchase
- Perform technical assistance
- Collaborate with faculty over training
- Evaluate usage
- Make retention decisions
- Approve purchase
- Review license agreements
- Other
- No responsibilities
Electronic Resources Require New Skills for Librarians

- 56% of institutions have provided additional technical training for librarians

Does the presence of electronic resources require new skills or qualifications for librarians?

New Skills Needed

Please list out the new skills or qualifications needed.
Below are some potential problems libraries might encounter with electronic resources. Please indicate the degree to which each of the following has been problematic in any way to your library. If the statement does not apply to your library, please check the “Does not apply” box.

Key Findings: Staffing and Responsibilities

- Many institutions have added staff to accommodate demands of electronic resources
- Librarians are taking on multiple responsibilities related to electronic resources
- Biggest problem is the loss of opportunity to instruct users
The Pros and Cons of Online Electronic Resources

Benefits of Electronic Resources

- Electronic resources are available to users 24/7
- Electronic resources provide the library with material they would otherwise not have the resources to purchase
- Electronic resources can be used simultaneously by multiple users
- Some materials that were not easily available in print are now more readily available electronically

Below are some potential benefits of electronic resources. Please rate the degree to which each of the following has been beneficial in any way to your library. If the statement does not apply to your library, check the “Does not apply” box.

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Very Beneficial
Somewhat Beneficial
Slightly Beneficial
Not at all Beneficial
Does not apply
Below are some potential benefits of electronic resources. Please rate the degree to which each of the following has been beneficial in any way to your library. If the statement does not apply to your library, check the “Does not apply” box.

**Benefits of Electronic Resources**

- **Electronic resources permit the tracking of individual titles**: 27% Very Beneficial, 38% Somewhat Beneficial, 26% Slightly Beneficial, 12% Not at all Beneficial, 4% Does not apply
- **Electronic resources take up less space**: 35% Very Beneficial, 30% Somewhat Beneficial, 21% Slightly Beneficial, 6% Not at all Beneficial, 4% Does not apply
- **Time efficient for librarians**: 36% Very Beneficial, 30% Somewhat Beneficial, 21% Slightly Beneficial, 6% Not at all Beneficial, 4% Does not apply
- **Electronic resources sometimes result in a shorter “wait time” for the availability of an item once it is published**: 47% Very Beneficial, 38% Somewhat Beneficial, 28% Slightly Beneficial, 12% Not at all Beneficial, 4% Does not apply

**Problems with Electronic Resources**

- **Many publishers of electronic resources do not guarantee archived copies**: 70% Very Problematic, 21% Somewhat Problematic, 11% Slightly Problematic, 8% Not at all Problematic, 4% DK/NA
- **Deletions in an aggregated resource can lead to a hole in the library’s archives**: 58% Very Problematic, 31% Somewhat Problematic, 9% Slightly Problematic, 2% Not at all Problematic, 1% DK/NA
- **Titles our library wants to keep may be dropped from an aggregated electronic resource**: 52% Very Problematic, 33% Somewhat Problematic, 11% Slightly Problematic, 2% Not at all Problematic, 4% DK/NA
- **The publisher of an electronic resource may go out of business**: 13% Very Problematic, 11% Somewhat Problematic, 9% Slightly Problematic, 4% Not at all Problematic, 4% DK/NA
- **The high cost of some electronic resources**: 30% Very Problematic, 22% Somewhat Problematic, 21% Slightly Problematic, 4% Not at all Problematic, 4% DK/NA

To what degree do you consider each of the following problematic in any way for your library?
Problems with Electronic Resources

To what degree do you consider each of the following problematic in any way for your library?

Key Findings: Pros and Cons

- 24/7 access is the greatest benefit of electronic resources
- Lack of guaranteed archives and high costs are the most problematic aspect of electronic resources
Use of the Library

Library users come to the physical library less often than they did 5 years ago

Users increasingly demand electronic resources

In 5 years, our librarian interaction with users will be predominantly electronic

Patrons’ Use of the Library

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.
Users Primarily Use the Library for:

![Pie chart showing the distribution of library use.]

- Accessing information that is in the stacks: 24%
- A place to gain access to computing facilities: 28%
- A study place: 28%
- Other: 14%
- A place to hold meetings: 1%
- DK/NA: 5%

Users now primarily use the physical library building for:

Role of Print Resources
Print Resources are Still Necessary

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Electronic resources make print resources unnecessary

Print Resources are Still Necessary

Electronic resources do not replace print resources

Electronic resources diminish the use of print resources

Electronic resources that refer to both print and electronic resources increase the use of print resources by making users more aware of what is available in print

In 5 years, our library’s resources will be predominantly electronic

Electronic resources make print resources unnecessary

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements on how electronic resources have affected the use of print resources.

Why is Print Still Necessary?

Print is preferred by users/easier to use

Not all print resources are available in electronic format

Print is necessary for ensured archiving

Some items are more suitable to print

Network problems impede use of electronic resources

Historical/Archival record is available in print and often not in electronic

Electronic versions not always as complete as the print version

Budget Restraints

Other

Please tell us more about why you say print resources are still necessary? Asked only of those who somewhat or strongly disagreed that print resources were unnecessary.
Most Libraries Retain Print Versions of Electronic Resources

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Yes 78%

No 22%

Does your library retain print versions of electronic resources?

What is Your Policy Regarding Retaining Print Resources?

Please tell us your policy regarding retaining print versions of electronic resources.
Key Findings: Use of Library and the Role of Print

• Patrons are increasingly demanding electronic resources.

• However, print still plays a major role in scholarly communication, and it is expected to continue to do so.

• Print is often preferred by users and it is easier to archive.

Conclusions and Future Directions
Preliminary Conclusions

Electronic Resources:
• Allow libraries to serve patrons more effectively
• Put a strain on some libraries
• Do not replace print resources

Future Directions

• Interviews with Administrators, Publishers, IT personnel
• Faculty Survey
• Student Survey
• CIAO and Earthscape evaluations
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