Data-driven e-book policies at Lafayette College Library

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CNI spring membership meeting
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Lafayette College profile:
  2,478 undergraduates (liberal arts and engineering)
  217 faculty

Library print collection profile:
  590,000 volumes
  8,000+ print books added in 2013
Select e-book offerings

ebrary Academic Complete (100,000+ titles)
Subscription since 2010

ebrary patron driven acquisitions (37,000+ titles)
  • consortial effort with 5 other institutions
  • began Nov. 2012 with all triggers leading to purchases
  • after 6 months, switched to 3 one-day STLs before purchase
  • now:
    • 27 publishers
    • Only titles allowing STLs
What do users prefer?

- paper (83%)
- online (4%)
- no preference (13%)
Below is a list of ways you may use a scholarly monograph. Please think about doing each of these things with a scholarly monograph in print format or in digital format, and use the scales below to indicate how much easier or harder is it to perform each activity in print or digital format. Please select one answer for each item.
Do users use e-books?

Academic Complete:
1442 unique titles with at least 5 pages viewed

ebrary PDA:
349 unique titles used by Lafayette in 12 months
Does it make sense financially?

Academic Complete:
Price per title based upon use of unique titles: $3.71

Ebrary PDA:
Our price per title based upon use by Lafayette: $58.67
Our price per title based upon titles purchased across consortia: $46.71
Are STLs better than outright purchases?

8 months of data: 814 STLs

- 1 trigger (79%)
- 2 triggers (13%)
- 3 triggers (5%)
- 4 triggers (3%)
Is the consortial effort worth it?

1021 unique titles use in 12 months.

12% used by more than one institution:
  109 used by two institutions
  6 used by three institutions
  4 used by four institutions
  1 used by five institutions
  0 used by six institutions
Current policies

Print is default format.

Duplicate formats only upon request.

Selectors use discretion in purchasing titles that might become available as PDA.

Avoid purchasing publisher packages of all e-books.