

Choosing e-books: a perspective from academic libraries

Magdalini Vasileiou (Department of Information and Communications, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK)

Richard Hartley (Faculty of Humanities, Law and Social Sciences, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK)

Jennifer Rowley (Department of Information and Communications, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK)

[Online Information Review](#)

ISSN: 1468-4527

Publication date: 17 February 2012

Abstract

Purpose

E-books are an important and growing type of digital resource. Academic libraries have traditionally had a major role in selecting books and making them available to learners, scholars, and researchers. Therefore the processes and criteria that they apply in the selection and acquisition of e-books may potentially have significant consequences for the future viability of e-books as a product. This paper aims to report on research into the criteria and processes that academic libraries use to choose e-books.

Design/methodology/approach

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 27 librarians in seven academic libraries in the UK.

Findings

Academic libraries purchase e-books from a portfolio of different vendors. In order to select the books and packages that they acquire they apply a number of criteria, including business models, licence, price, platform, interface, subject coverage, and match to reading lists. High on the list of librarians' concerns are: the variation in and complexity of business models for purchasing, licence variety and digital rights management (DRM) restrictions, and perceived high prices.

Originality/value

This study focuses directly and in depth on the buying and selection processes and criteria. Insights offered by this study may be of value to publishers, aggregators and librarians.

Keywords

[E-books](#) [Academic libraries](#) [Digital resources](#) [Acquisition](#) [Selection criteria](#) [Buyer decision-making](#) [United Kingdom](#) [Electronic media](#) [Purchase agreements](#)

Citation

Vasileiou, M., Hartley, R. and Rowley, J. (2012), "Choosing e-books: a perspective from academic libraries", *Online Information Review*, Vol. 36 No. 1, pp. 21-39.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/14684521211206944>

[Download as .RIS](#)

Publisher: Emerald Group Publishing Limited

Copyright © 2012, Emerald Group Publishing Limited

To read the full version of this content please select one of the options below

You may be able to access this content by logging in via Shibboleth, Open Athens or with your Emerald Account.

To rent this content from Deepdyve, please click the button.

If you think you should have access to this content, click the button to contact our support team.



© 2020 Emerald Publishing Limited

• the academic e-book landscape: early e-books, the current e-book market, and the acceptance and use of e-books by students, faculty, and librarians; • restrictions on the use of e-books by library patrons: restrictions on viewing, printing, downloading and transferring files; digital rights management e-books and academic libraries. Journal browsing and citation tracing led to the discovery of additional studies. vantages of e-books from the perspective of the individual consumer. The points mentioned in Table 1 have been. Finally, e-books are easier to purchase and with the facility of online purchase, anyone gets an ebook whenever s/he wants. It was environment-friendly as it requires no papers, ink and saves the trees that would have been used to produce papers. On the Other hand, many excellent books have been published only on paper based. Thus, if you would like to read them on your mobile devices, unfortunately, you could not avail them. You can find them only in the library. For example, in my University years, I had to read a book that is about business history and I wanted to read it on my iPhone. I searched it on the internet but I could not find it even in paper based. So I had to go to the library and I could find it in there. Academic Libraries and Ebooks by Tina Adams 473 views. Promoting e books to students in an by Maria Savova 2458 views. Ebook use amongst academic librarians by Natasha Langdown 5470 views. Access and Ownership Issues of Elec by Fe Angela Verzosa 6963 views. user perspective – fair usage and copyright educational exemptions generally apply to printing and downloading

Copyright rules apply to eBooks

Usage IV

. 19. Quick overview

Positives

Negatives

Demand

Simultaneous/concurrent users

Off campus/remote access

Content versatility – search and scanability

eBook fully index'able

Space – no shelving

Reduced back-end work

No repairing or covering<. Presentation on theme: "E-books One librarian's perspective James Mouw Director of Technical and Electronic Services The University of Chicago Library"—

Presentation transcript: 1 E-books One librarian's perspective James Mouw Director of Technical and Electronic Services The University of Chicago Library mouw@uchicago.edu. 2 The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library. Buy Only What You Need: Demand- Driven Acquisition as a Strategy for Academic Libraries IDS Project Conference Oswego, NY August 3, 2010 Michael Levine-Clark.