



The Patrons Demand, But What Do They Really Want?

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INTRODUCTION

EBook collection becoming a trend

- eBook advantages – Remote access; 24/7 availability; simultaneous multi-users; full-text searching; never lost, damaged, stolen; no space issue
- Technology – eBook technologies continue to evolve and develop; accessing and using eBooks continues to become easier
- Changes in user's behavior and preference – users expect everything to be accessible remotely and seamlessly; prefer easy discovery and delivery
- Enhancement of eBook pricing and purchase model – books vendors incorporated eBooks into their ordering databases

Research questions – Are we there yet?

- Can eBook acquisition best meet the needs of our users?
- Can the monographic e-content offered by providers supplement or even supplant our print purchasing?

DATA AND METHODS

1) Circulation logs for General Collections (i.e., circulating print monographs), July 2008–May 2011

The data set (from the local Voyager ILS) contains 6,960 titles with ISBNs and 3 checkouts or more (accounting for more than 35% of the total circulation)

2) ILL book request logs, July 2008–May 2011

The data set (from the OCLC Usage Statistics system) contains 3,821 ILL titles with ISBNs

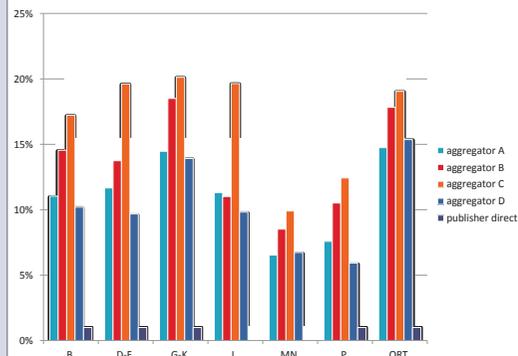
3) "Historical browse" logs (in-house use data for General Collections titles cataloged from July 2008–May 2011)

The data set (from the local Voyager ILS) contains 525 titles with ISBNs and 4 usages or more (accounting for 35% of all in-house use)

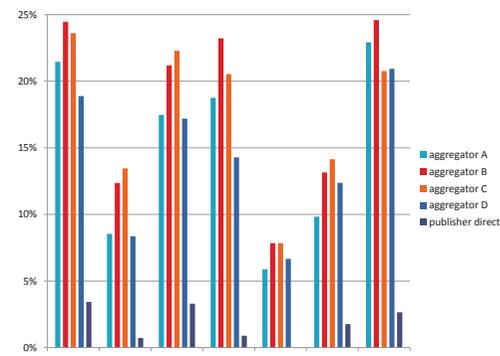
Working on the premise that the 3 data sets represented a sufficient measure of our local needs, the title lists were submitted to our vendors to be matched with available eBook equivalents.

FINDINGS (1)

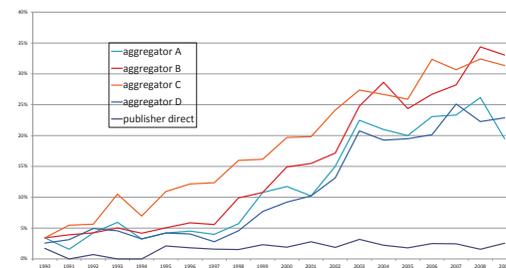
Circulation Needs Met by Subject (LC Class)



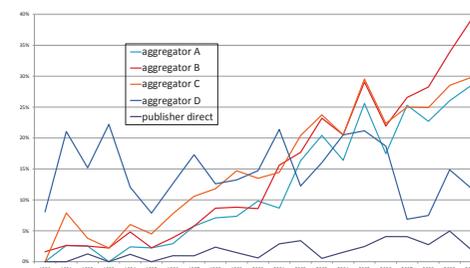
ILL Needs Met by Subject



Circulation Needs Met by Imprint Year



ILL Needs Met by Imprint Year



Analysis—Circulation Data

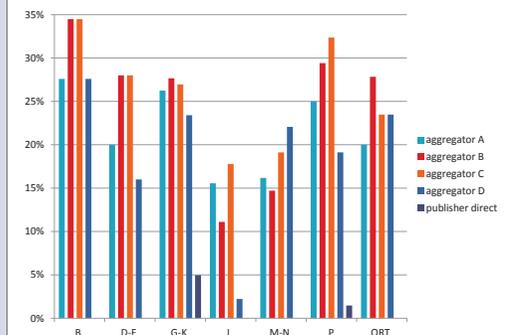
- The availability of eBooks equivalents is inconsistent across disciplines
- The availability of eBook equivalents for titles published prior to 1990 is practically nil, but has grown dramatically since 1990 to meet nearly 30% of our needs
- Social Sciences (G-K) and Hard Science (QRT) titles are somewhat more heavily represented by eBook equivalents

Analysis—ILL Data

- The availability of eBooks equivalents is inconsistent across disciplines
- The availability of eBook equivalents increases dramatically after around 2000, but has grown dramatically to meet approximately 30% of our needs
- Psychology/Philosophy/Religion (B) and Hard Science titles are more heavily represented by eBook equivalents for ILL titles

FINDINGS (2)

Historical Browse Needs Met by Subject



Analysis—Historical Browse Data

- The availability of eBooks equivalents is inconsistent across disciplines
- Philosophy/Psychology/Religion most heavily represented

CONCLUSION

- eBook coverage still represents a fraction of the needs of TCNJ users
- eBook purchases of more recent imprints would be more likely to satisfy our needs
- Since there is a higher rate of eBook equivalents to meet our ILL needs, this might be a reasonable place to begin eBook purchasing
- This methodology may be useful in helping libraries make informed decisions in building eBook collections
- It is not yet time to consider replacing print completely with "e" — eBooks can supplement but not supplant our print collection

Disclaimer

The principal value of this study lies in its methodology as an assessment tool. These data are a reflection of the user needs of TCNJ Library and should not be interpreted as a review of the capabilities of the aggregators studied.