University of Missouri Kansas City University Libraries

Collection Development Policy

BOOKS

In the mid-2000s, the University Libraries began to acquire electronic books through individual and subject-specific collections. Our strategic plan establishes as an objective that we should “license electronic resources whenever feasible to meet the needs of the anytime/anywhere scholar.” Even though some users report that they prefer paper books to ebooks, the advantages of ebooks outweigh this stated preference, and usage statistics indicate that patrons will use ebooks when they are available. Mirroring the progression of the University Libraries' print journal collection practices into an e-preferred journal collection policy, which has been in place since 2008, monograph acquisitions for the general library collections will be guided by e-preferred principles and supported by e-preferred procedures already established in the serials workflow.

Ebooks provide these organizational benefits:

* Administrative savings: There is no processing, shelving, damage, loss, or physical handling.
* Collection analytics: Ebook usage can be measured in detail to assist in collection management decisions.
* Ownership flexibility: Ebooks may be rented, loaned, owned, or accessible via subscription package.

Ebooks provide these benefits to users:

* Accessibility: Ebooks are available 24/7 and are accessible from on campus as well as from remote locations. This factor is especially important as the university moves towards a greater emphasis on distance learning and online education.
* Availability: Ebooks packages significantly increase the size of the collection and the range of monographic content available to users.
* Functionality: Ebooks can be interactive, can be searched at various content levels, and cross-linked through OpenURL.

All monographic content acquired by the University Libraries will pass through the same set of curriculum-based selection criteria currently in practice. Beginning in 2014 this monographic content will be enhanced by the e-preferred monograph acquisitions (ebook) policy.

In the current marketplace, ebook publishers, suppliers, platforms, access methods, and functionalities differ widely. The University Libraries will collect ebooks based on the following conditions that exist at the time of selection and in the following order:

* Concurrent users: We will prefer providers who allow multi-users as part of their standard terms of access.
* Digital Rights Management (DRM): We will prefer providers with the least-restrictive DRM. Users should have a seamless ability to copy, forward, download, print or otherwise manipulate content.
* Ownership options: We will purchase individual ebook titles as well as subscribing to large ebook packages. In addition we will make a large collection of ebook titles available through patron-driven acquisitions program, which will allow us to buy books only after they have been used by patrons.
* Cost: We will minimize platform or access fee outlays.
* Administrative permissions: We will prefer providers who are COUNTER compliant and provide access to a well-designed and serviceable administrative module.
* Indexing: How well the full-text of the book is indexed in major databases, including discovery services such as Summon, will be a consideration.
* Devices: We prefer that ebooks be designed so that they can be easily read on desktops, laptops, e-readers/tablets, and mobile devices.

In 2012 the publishing industry estimated that about one-third of all monographic titles were available as ebooks. As more titles become available electronically and as the University Libraries move towards a more accessible e-collection, we will continue to acquire print monographs based on these exceptions:

* Unavailability: If the title is a core title and is not published in dual format or not yet available in e-format, or if the publisher is primarily print-only, we may purchase the print version.
* If the electronic version is much more expensive than the print version, we may elect to purchase the print version.
* Request: Print format, if it specifically requested, will only be purchased if the ebook version ~~is~~ lacks content, for example illustrative material, that is available in the print version, or if there is some kind of issue with readability or functionality, for example, if printing is not allowed. In general we will not purchase a print version of a title which we already have access to in electronic format. If patrons simply prefer print format and cannot demonstrate deficiencies in the electronic version, the book may be acquired through ILL.

A Research Guide on ebooks is available on the library’s website at <http://libguides.library.umkc.edu/ebooks>.