Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Karen Pilfer - Thursday, 16 March 2006, 09:40 AM

This presentation focuses on the recent assessment of our print periodical collection. I'd like to conclude the session with ideas, suggestions, experiences or questions from others who have either completed a similar process or are in the midst of the process. If you would be interested in sharing your experiences with attendees please email me or post to the forum.

Thank you, Karen

Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Kelly Smith - Wednesday, 22 March 2006, 10:02 AM

Our main concern is ensuring future access to content. How can we tell if we subscribe to a journal in online form whether we'll have access to that content in 10 years? Or even in 3 years? When is it "safe" to cancel the print?

Kelly Smith, Eastern Kentucky University

Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Robert Bothmann - Thursday, 23 March 2006, 01:16 PM

Maybe think about it this way. What is important, maintaining access to specific titles or having access to resources that support the curriculum. If specific title access is what is most important, then you would either have to go with JSTOR or something you know is archived, or always subscribe to the print.

But if what you need to do is provide appropriate access to resources that support the curricular and research needs of your institution, then I think you free yourself to cancel print wherever you feel necessary. Then you just have to make sure that your electronic coverage will offer that support.

And, there is always ILL for those articles to which you do not subscribe, and your ILL request stats will let you know if there are specific titles to which you need to subscribe in some manner.
Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Melissa Belvadi - Sunday, 26 March 2006, 06:23 AM

While I generally agree with your perspective, it worries me somewhat when we talk so casually about relying on ILL, because increasingly libraries are cancelling print in exchange for online access to which they do NOT have the right to ILL the content. So the day may come when our ILL system breaks down, as no one has the legal right to send needed articles. That's extreme, and I don't really see a complete total breakdown, but a slow withering away, an increasing difficulty in getting more and more titles by ILL, and an increasing burden on the few libraries that keep their print or who have the ability to negotiate ILL rights into their contracts. I was shocked to learn recently that the biggest research library in my area, Washington Univ in St. Louis, had switched about 90% of their periodicals to online only. All us small libraries in St. Louis depend on "WashU" and take that dependence for granted. I don't know the details of whether they negotiated ILL rights in their licenses, but as WashU is a private institution it has no particular obligation to expend the extra effort to do that.

The other major research library in our state is the public flagship school, U of Missouri-Columbia. I don't know if librarians at public institutions consider their role as archives in terms of making the ownership/access tradeoff for their own immediate patrons as a strong and binding one in their decisions. I hope so.

Melissa

Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Joy Mark - Monday, 27 March 2006, 08:27 AM

"I don't know the details of whether they negotiated ILL rights in their licenses..."

Is this possible; has it been done before? If so, how common is it? I thought the trend was toward not having those rights, like you mentioned in your post.

Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Melissa Belvadi - Monday, 27 March 2006, 05:32 PM

In general, I've gotten the impression from librarians at our state's two largest academic libraries, WashU and the Univ of Missouri-Columbia, that negotiating customized specific terms in library databases licences is pretty much standard operating procedure for them. We smaller libraries treat database vendor contracts as pretty much just take-it-or-leave-it, since we don't have easy access to lawyers.

There were a couple of sessions at the conference that had to do with licensing - I admit that they weren't ones that I attended, exactly because we just take contracts as they come. But maybe some of the speakers of those could address this issue.

Melissa

Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Qin Zhu - Monday, 27 March 2006, 06:20 PM
In this session, someone mentioned the options for archiving ejournals. One is LOCKSS. One is a non-profit organization. The person from that organization was also in this session. Somehow, I didn't write down the name for that organization. Can someone tell me the name of that organization and the website or contact info?

Thanks,
Qin

Re: Experiences, suggestions or questions
by Karen Pifher - Tuesday, 28 March 2006, 05:45 AM
At the end of the presentation, I discussed several initiatives for archiving electronic resources including JSTOR and LOCKSS. One of the participants mentioned Portico. If there is interest, I'll invite the Portico representative to join this forum to answer questions.

Thanks, Karen