What’s at stake?

- E-books, e-journals, databases are here to stay, and not getting any cheaper
- Readers’ attitudes and behaviors toward e-books are still shaking down
- Availability of e-publications affects print usage, ILL and other practices
Collection management of digital resources

- The established collection development guidelines still hold
- Complications do arise
Content

• Quality indicators
  – Peer review
  – Librarian/professional review
• Consistency between print and electronic versions
• Currency and frequency of updates
• Bundled titles
Pricing

- No standard for pricing models
- One-time payment, ongoing, or both?
- Content vs. access fees? Per-use charge?
- Beware the introductory “teaser” price!
- Non-cancellation clauses
Content and pricing are only part of the picture

- Usability
- Modes of access
- Permanence of access
- Supplementing vs. replacing print titles
- Licensing terms
Usability

• Ease of navigation
• Searching ease/capabilities
• Printing/downloading
• Title-level URL access?
• If it requires significant end-user training, is it going to be used enough to justify?
Usability, cont’d

• Playing well with others
  – Summon
  – WorldCat
  – API, Z39.50

• Ease of sharing
  – Format
  – Licensing
  – (How, exactly?)
Licensing terms

- Usage restrictions
  - ILL, reserves, course packs
- Length of contract, non-cancellation clauses
- Jurisdiction
  - Maryland & Virginia: UCITA
- Indemmnification
Modes of access

- IP validation vs. password, registration, etc.
- Number of simultaneous users
- How are limits enforced?
Permanence of access

• Access to backfiles (additional cost?)
• Access post-cancellation/termination
• Vendor or publisher archives
• Reliability, uninterrupted access
• Who bears responsibility for archiving?
• Language in license agreement?
E-titles supplementing vs. replacing their print counterpart

- Vendor may require purchase of print and digital together
- Print may offer permanent access, or content missing from digital
- Print and digital may serve different needs/different users
- Digital replacing print shouldn’t sacrifice content, access, reliability, quality...
Looking ahead

*Patron-driven acquisition of e-books*

- Program must be well planned, promoted
- Recent studies bust some myths/concerns
  - High use frequency
  - Wide audience (many users per title)
  - Balanced range of subject areas
Looking ahead

• Paradigm shift from “just-in-case” to “just-in-time”
• New technologies → new techniques
• Changes in staffing and workflows
• Less content, more discovery?
What’s on your mind?

Thanks! Questions? Comments?

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