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Making the Switch from Print to Online: Why, When and How?

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**Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)
Collection Management & Development Section (CMDS)
Collection Development & Electronic Resources Committee**

Making the Switch from Print to Online: Why, When and How?

This bibliography was created for an ALCTS CMDS program at the 2008 American Library Association Annual Conference. It annotates selected articles published from Jan. 2006 through April 2008. It was compiled by:

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Blummer, B. (2006). E-Books revisited: The adoption of electronic books by special, academic, and public libraries. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 11(2), 1-13.

The author sent a questionnaire to listservs to gather from respondents experiences with collecting, managing, and promoting e-books, as well as perceptions on e-book usage. She received thirty responses and sixteen completed surveys that included comments on costs, platform variety, single-versus multiple-use formats, and rights management challenges, among other things. Of note was the important role librarians play in advancing e-book applications through promoting availability and studying usage.

Boissy, R., Feick, T., & Knapp, L. (2007). Journal pricing ten years later. *The Serials Librarian*, 52(1), 167-182.

This article presents an informative overview of the changes in journal publishing and subscription management from mid 1990's through mid 2000's. The authors devote the first half of the article to discussing how publishers and subscription agents handled pricing of print journals. The second half focuses on those two parties' practices of managing electronic journals.

Connaway, L., & Wicht, H. L. (2007). What happened to the e-book revolution?: The gradual integration of e-books into academic libraries. *The Journal of Electronic Publishing*, 10(3).
<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3336451.0010.302>

The authors review literature written about e-books between 2000 and 2007 and find that there has been a historical longing to store and retrieve information; that today's e-book providers present choices that enthrall and confuse; and that e-books more than ever offer librarians a rich opportunity to satisfy information needs of faculty and students. But the most salient awareness the authors raise is that of the score of usage and user studies conducted on e-books, sources they document in their notes. These studies touch upon user preferences, platform frustrations, interoperability matters, and much more. They should be consulted in their own right.

Hernon, P., Hopper, R., Leach, M. R., Saunders, L. L., & Zhang, J. (2007). E-book use by students: Undergraduates in Economics, Literature, and Nursing. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 33(1), 3-13.

The authors discuss a study of how 15 undergraduate students (five in Economics, Literature, and Nursing each) in "a master's medium institution" found and used e-books. Among the findings are that libraries should increase the visibility of their e-book collections; that e-books' layout should be improved to avoid too much scrolling and to speed up the download; and that students usually "do not read large blocks of text (e.g., chapters) online." The descriptions of the students' search behaviors in the appendix would be of interest to parties involved in e-book production, selection, and marketing.

Hunter, K. (2007). The end of print journals: (In)Frequently asked questions. *Journal of Library Administration*, 46(2), 119-132.

This article examines the possible cessation of print journals from different perspectives. For librarians, an electronic-only journal environment would lead to questions about perpetual access, faculty's

reaction, and a subscription agent's role. For authors and readers, there would be concerns over the integrity of published works, the change in citation rates, and reliable and affordable access. Publishers, on the other hand, would have to consider authors' and subscribers' reactions as well as journal branding. The author also discusses various issues involved in archiving electronic journals. In conclusion, she states: "If we want to end print, we must have bullet-proof digital archiving of electronic journals. We are making progress, but there are many, many issues still to be settled."

Johnson, R. K., & Luther, J. (2008). Are journal publishers trapped in the dual-media transition zone? *ARL*, 257, 1-6. <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/arl-br-257-journals.pdf>

Based on interviews of publishing professionals, this article presents an analysis of factors that publishers consider when determining whether to pursue electronic-only journal publishing. The drivers for change are cost reduction and quality enhancement brought about by technologies. The deterrents include the loss of revenue from print subscription and advertising; reengineering of production and distribution processes; and authors' and readers' perceptions. The authors predict that a 95% electronic-only journal environment "could be on the horizon" for libraries whereas "a more mixed picture is likely for publishers." This article is extracted from an Association of Research Libraries report, *The E-only Tipping Point for Journals*, which is available online at: http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/Electronic_Transition.pdf

Moghaddam, G. G. (2007). Archiving challenges of scholarly electronic journals: How do publishers manage them? *Serials Review*, 33(2), 81-90.

Through analysis and a literature review, the author considers central issues in the preservation of digital resources, such as rapid obsolescence of digital technology, copyright, and library-publisher relationships. She presents results of a study of archiving policies among publishers that highlights agreements between commercial and non-commercial publishers and the National Library of the Netherlands, a willing participant in the long-term archiving of digital material.

Safley, E. (2006). Demand for e-books in an academic library. *Journal of Library Administration*, 45(3/4), 445-457.

This article provides an in-depth literature review of e-book usage and a discussion of how different e-book collections were used in a university. In conclusion, Safley argues that "the demand for all things electronic is infiltrating into monographs in the form of e-books" and that "the closer libraries can get to giving customers segments of text, the more useful the item becomes."

Sandler, M., Armstrong, K., & Nardini, B. (2007). Market formation for e-books: Diffusion, confusion or delusion. *The Journal of Electronic Publishing*, 10(3). <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3336451.0010.310>

This article provides an insightful analysis of the uptake of e-books and identifies the barriers to the uptake in terms of publishers' and libraries' practices and authors' and readers' perceptions. The authors contend that the adoption of e-book will eventually be widespread because of users' recognition of e-book's benefits in teaching and learning; libraries' changes in acquisitions practices from a print-centered model to an electronic-centered model; and publishers' and aggregators' enhancements of their platforms, pricing models, and content offer.

Schonfeld, R. C. (2007). Getting from here to there, safely: Library strategic planning for the transition away from print journals. *The Serials Librarian*, 52(1/2), 183-189.

The author lists factors that should be considered when libraries decide to migrate their journals to the electronic-only environment: 1. Costs of the migration; 2. Publishers' readiness for electronic publishing; 3. Operational functions for print journals; 4. New operational functions for electronic journals; 5. Electronic journal archiving and access; 6. Print journal archiving and access. Schonfeld recommends that libraries conduct a strategic format review in light of their uniqueness such as user expectations, organizational structure, and consortial planning.

For other relevant articles, refer to Charles Bailey's *Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography* (Sections 2 and 3): <http://www.digital-scholarship.org/sepb/toc.htm>