How does your library handle electronic serials?
A general survey

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About the survey

• “Environmental scan”
• August 7 – September 30, 2001
• Population: members of six serials / Internet oriented email lists
• 194 libraries responded
• Article published in March 2002 Serials (15.1, 41-46)
More about the survey

• We asked only about practices
• People offered attitudes
• Identified many areas for further research
People are interested
Respondents want to know how others do it

- "...I am very interested in finding out results of survey - we feel as if we are in a backwater here, struggling along with very little help from anyone!"
- "...Apart from making available the results of my library in relation to others would it possible to have it by country or specifically by region as well."
Library types

- Academic: 139
- Not for profit: 11
- For profit: 39
- Public: 5
- School: 0

Frequency
User population

N = 185

Frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-500</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-1000</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001-5000</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5001-10000</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10001-20000</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20000+</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What they provide access to

- Refereed journals: 173
- Popular magazines: 114
- Newsletters: 35
- Newspapers: 106
- Other: 101
Subscriptions in both formats

% of total subscriptions in both formats
Mention of electronic version in collection policy

N = 194

- Yes: 77
- No: 50
- No answer: 67
Where they provide access

N = 194
Catalogue: single vs. separate record

- Single: 76
- Separate: 43
- No answer: 75

N = 194
Catalogue: CONSER compliance

N = 194
Separate list: technology

N = 151

- Static HTML: 55
- Database / middleware: 38
- Other: 58

N = 151
Separate list: access points

- Title: 149
- Additional title: 18
- Name: 24
- Subject headings: 26
- Call numbers: 6
- Other subject access: 38

Legend:
- Blue: Title
- Green: Additional title
- Pink: Name
- Gray: Subject headings
- Black: Call numbers
- Brown: Other subject access
Information in records

- Extent of FT: 110
- License info: 11
- Links to other versions: 64
- Other: 34
Mechanisms for tracking expiry

N = 194

Yes: 102
No: 59
No answer: 33
Finding out about new titles
Finding out about loss of access
Themes in staffing and workflow

- New workflow
- Heavy workload
- Managing eserials requires professional
- Licensing issues
New workflow

• “There’s a great deal more effort needed to provide shared information…”

• “Both the e-serial environment and our approach to it are continually evolving.”

• “Unstable workflow has to be more precise.”
# Staff involved (examples)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Assist in maintaining web lists, evaluating licenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Services</td>
<td>Contact with vendors, arranges access, links within OPAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Resources</td>
<td>Set up access, set cataloguing policy, maintaining access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>Maintain proxy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Training and user instruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Heavy workload

• “…cannot be done entirely by a single person. As well, providing access to aggregator titles through the catalogue takes too much time for most libraries.”

• “To be blunt they are a royal pain in the ass when we have limited staff to manage a large collection.”
Staffing levels

• “...from an essentially library technician / clerical job to a professional librarian’s job.”

• “The library has created a position for whom part of their responsibilities [is] licensing ... Other issues include copyright, embargoes, lack of industry standards and overall management of eserials."
Negotiated changes to licenses

- Remote access
- Access at multiple sites
- Access for users other than "student, faculty, staff"
- Archival issues
Themes in technical aspects

• Still in transitional period
  ▪ “Extremely time consuming to enter records in the catalogue. Still a number of issues to work through before we get it right.”

• Lack of standardization
  ▪ “I wish there was a ‘standard’ that all publishers use for access.”
Consortial licensing

- Licensing
- Staffing issues
- Leverage on publishers and standardization

N = 194

- Yes: 149
- No: 31
- No answer: 14
Further research

• Workflow analysis
• Aggregated full text databases
• Eserials management services
• Consortial approaches
• Collection management
• ILS vendors