Squeezed between the E’s: Electronic Resources (Print Monographs)
Economic Woes

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## Print Monographs:

### Pressures:
- **Economic**
  - Loss of purchasing power
  - Losses in endowments
- **Electronic Resources**
  - Databases
  - E-journals
  - E-books

### Budgeting:
- **Approval plans**
  - Increase/Decrease
  - Print/(Electronic)
- **Firm orders**
- **Place of E-books within these monograph-oriented budgets**
Snapshot 1:

- 134 respondents
- Nearly half from
  - DRU + RU/H + RU/VH
- Nearly all ACQ or CDV
- Serving:
  - 116 are central library
  - 5 vet/med
  - 10 specific disciplines
    - (half of these are science-oriented)
Snapshot 2:

Total size of student body, on and off campus

Total Materials Budget

- Less than $250K
- $250K - $500K
- $500K - $1M
- $1M - $3M
- $3M - $5M
- $5M - $10M
- More than $10M
Materials Budget Changes:

- Changes in last 5 years (109 answers):
  - No change: 18
  - Net increases: 67
  - Net decreases: 24

- Changes to current year from last (111 answers):
  - No change: 37
  - Increases: 39
  - Decreases: 35

- Changes expected for next year (110 answers):
  - No change: 29
  - Expect increase: 12
  - Expect decrease: 69
Approval Plans:

- **Use of approval plans:**
  - 79 have/will establish approval plan (31 no)
  - 60 established more than 5 years ago
  - 13 newer than 2 years or in planning stage

- **Budget devoted to approval plan:**
  - This year: Generally less than 20%, 27 reporting a decrease from previous year
  - Next year: Nearly half expecting decreases

- **Oversight:**
  - Primarily Acq and/or Collection Development (60)
  - Administrative and liaison librarian models also mentioned
Reasons to Change Approval Plan Allocations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Inflation: 13</td>
<td>• Downturn in economy: 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ebooks added to profile: 9</td>
<td>• Serials inflation: 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Decreased time to select: 8</td>
<td>• E-resources inflation: 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Profile expansion: 7</td>
<td>• Shift emphases to e-resources: 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Convenient and efficient: 7</td>
<td>• Change monograph type from print to e: 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of subject expertise: 4</td>
<td>• Decline in print books use: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shifts in research/teaching: 4</td>
<td>• Shelf space limitations: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Not applicable: <strong>38</strong></td>
<td>• More money to firm orders: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Profile not meeting needs: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Shifts in research/teaching: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Not applicable: <strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Firm Orders:

• Budget devoted to firm orders:
  ▫ This year: Generally up to 20%, 45 reporting a decrease from previous year
  ▫ Next year: More than half expecting decreases

• Oversight:
  ▫ 80 said purchasing decisions made by librarians or librarians w/input from teaching faculty

• Correlations between firm and approval allocations:
  ▫ 61 respondents indicated some kind of correlation between the allocations
  ▫ 21 indicated changes to the allocations occur independently of one another
Reasons to Change Firm Order Allocations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval plan not adequate: 7</td>
<td>Downturn in economy: 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation: 7</td>
<td>Shift emphases to e-resources: 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in approvals: 7</td>
<td>Serials inflation: 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift in research/teaching: 4</td>
<td>E-resources inflation: 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater emphasis on materials not avail on approval: 4</td>
<td>Change monograph type from print to e: 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebooks eligible for firm orders: 3</td>
<td>More money to approvals: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable: 42</td>
<td>Decreased time to select: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shelf space limitations: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missing subject knowledge: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable: 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pressures to Acquire Electronic Content:

- Changes in Discipline Focus
- Publishers
- University/College Administration
- Distance Education Faculty
- Distance Education Students
- Library Staff and/or Librarians
- Library Administration
- Professors on Campus
- Students on Campus
E-book Purchases:

- 93 respondents (88%) currently purchase E-books
  - 80 title by title
  - 72 in packages
  - 12 on an approval plan
  - (5 comments on consortium purchases)
- Selection responsibility:
  - 53 librarians (31 lib + faculty) for e-books
  - 47 lib + faculty, 33 librarians, 8 faculty for print
### E-book Approval Plans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 E-BOOK APPROVAL PLANS</th>
<th>CHANGES TO PRINT APPROVAL PLANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• All have materials budgets above $1M</td>
<td>• Restrict publishers (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 11 have approval plans, 10 more than 5 years</td>
<td>• Delay print for publishers (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Half did not change print book approval plan</td>
<td>• Restrict subjects (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 5 RU/VH, 1 RUH, 3 DRU</td>
<td>• Delay print for subjects (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 with a separate allocation than the print book approval plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions/Predictions/Ideas?

- Worse budget news now...
- Budget conditions speed up changes already underway
  - Janus Conference: Procon and Core Definition
- Approval plans must continue evolving:
  - More granular selection options (and increase service to smaller institutions)
  - Range of service relationships (e.g., ERMS, Project COUNTER)
- E-Book publishers must change faster:
  - Work better with vendors (including reducing time differential between e/p availability)
  - Make approval plans a viable option
Further Reading:

• Lorenzen, Elizabeth, and Suzanne Kapusta. 2007. Long live the approval plan, even in a time of financial constraints... *Against the Grain* 19, (3): 40, 42.
Questions?

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