

## **Ebook working group: April 23, 2014**

Online meeting

Minutes

### **Attending**

**Working group members present:** Serin Anderson, James Bunnelle, Linda Di Biase (chair), Kathi Fountain (alliance staff), Joanne Percy, Sara Seely, Nancy Sprague, Tom Larson, and Jill Emery

**Guests:** Neil Sorensen (ebrary/Proquest), Alison Bobal (EBL) and Joan Thompson (YBP), Barbara Kawecki (YBP)

### **Update on recommendations presented to Council (Kathi)**

Kathi updated Council on the Ebook DDA program and budget, including the working group's recommendation to consider use in the new funding formula, which was supported. Council would like to included use in the new funding formula at 20%, a higher percentage than the working group proposed. Voting is open right now on a formula of 20% even split, 30% of FTE, 30% of budget, and 20% use. If the new funding formula passes, the working group will need to communicate soon to the Alliance because individual institutions will have budget adjustments to make.

### **Spending update and end-of-year-purchasing (Kathi & Linda)**

Kathi updated the group on the DDA budget. Currently the program has spent 52% of the budget, with overall spent at \$539,921. We're just over halfway spent and far over halfway through the year. It was proposed that if we hold some funds for next year we could use reserved funds to try a new eBook model.

Linda asked Alison to provide a spreadsheet of titles with 10 or more STLs by 3 or more libraries in case we want to make purchases this year based on use.

### **Change in Cambridge pricing / Implications for our DDA (Linda / Alison)**

An increase to ebook pricing at Cambridge could be of concern because it could apply to the consortium. Titles that are textbooks will substantially increase in price (to \$500 each) and because EBL titles are purchased with the multiplier of 5, each title could be \$2,500.

Alison, reports that a textbook is \$195 per title and the multiplier will apply.

How are textbooks defined? Neil reports that the publisher doesn't do it very often, but can define a title as a textbook at anytime. Alison notes that nothing has been reported at \$500/title as of yet and she will monitor any changes, and that the textbooks aren't typically included on our platform. Linda asked for an update in early May, since the Cambridge change in pricing goes live May 1st.

Barb noted that some enhancements coming in Gobi may assist us in decisions. Gobetween functionality is being enhanced and will provide automatic duplication control with titles in individual DDA program and

Alliance program. Individual library accounts will dup control against the consortial account. Kathi will talk with Joan to see how it will be useful for us and report back.

### **ProQuest/EBL update (Neil / Alison)**

Neil reported back about publishers response to the possibility of moving towards a Limited Use Model. Publishers have had a mixed responses. They are walking away from the limited loan model, and none of the publishers have responded with a yes to participating.

Neil discussed an emerging access model where libraries come together and put everything in the pool for short-term loan only. Then each individual library purchases a title when that library hits 5 short-term-loans on a title. This is being loosely referred to as a “buying club” model and Neil will follow up by sending a link to a description of an example from a small consortium in Massachusetts.

Neil clarified that the institution that triggers 5 STLs purchases the title. and then the title remains open for use by all institutions. Linda wondered about the obligation of the library that triggers the purchase to purchase the title and how an individual library would budget for that model. Neil proposed that perhaps having access to wider content wouldn't trigger as many purchases, but the value can be found in having access to wider content.

The alliance annual meeting is in July, and the group wondered if there would be options than we can present to the group in detail by the annual meeting. The working group would first need to consider the options and financial implications and how we might engage in a pilot project for next year. Neil commits to provide options and a viable plan for this year's Annual meeting.

Linda suggests that if we don't need to spend the money this year we may have funds to explore an alternative. The options to explore at this point are:

- Staying with the present model
- Putting some or all of the program money to a buying club model
- Putting some money to a subscription model

Neil is tasked with improving the efficiency of the model. Alison will be gone most of June. Kathi notes that we have a buying plan if we need to spend the money by the end of the year.

Linda proposed the working group use the data we have for the last year to calculate the costs for a “buying club” model, with the STLs set to 5 and 10 so we can compare. This will tell us which libraries would have purchased what titles and give us a model for what the budget would look like.

(Neil and Alison excused)

### **Next Steps (Linda)**

Kathi has had conversations with JSTOR, Project Muse, and EBSCO in order to ensure we're providing the best options for our users. Are we satisfied with the options ProQuest/EBL are providing?

The Alliance Assessment team may be tasked with a project and they might focus on patron satisfaction around ebooks and explore whether ebook platforms we're providing are meeting our users needs. Kathi suggests we can move ahead with considering options and will keep apprised of the assessment work.

The survey of Alliance members told us that there's a growing comfort level with access over ownership. Still, a significant number of respondents replied that wanted to come out of this project with ownership. Ownership is still important and the cost of ownership is expensive so the content pool is smaller than what some libraries want to see.

Some Alliance libraries have existing subscriptions to the EBSCO eBook collection and 14 subscribe to the ProQuest version. If we were to run DDA and subscription side-by-side in order for the program to get the back-file and the front-file, what would the cost be at the consortial level? Kathi will talk to vendors and report back.

How can we manage deduping? We would need to ask about deduping and YBP can also help EBSCO dedup on their end.

The following questions/considerations need to be addressed in order to begin considering EBSCO for a DDA project:

- What alliance libraries have subscriptions and what are the costs?
- Is there a new interface coming from EBSCO?
- Consider the new Proquest/EBL interface in comparison
- What is the stability of the subscription product?
- Record management and the quality of the data, which needs to be correct and current
- EBSCO and Xlibris have had data-sharing issues

Joan (YBP) suggested that since not all content is available with one vendor, can we consider a multiple vendor product and then have a vendor preference? There was concern that we'd have more management on our end and the customer support would not be what we'd need to make a successful program.

More discussion ensued regarding the user perspective and familiarity with the interface. Many people voiced concern about the usability of the EBSCO ebook interface. Also, Tom wonders what in a subscription model would come and go (disappear) and reminds us that the purchase model secures the content.

At this point DDA exploration with EBSCO doesn't appeal because of the time to negotiate with publishers and dissatisfaction with platform, but we will ask for quote on subscription model.

JSTOR works with larger university presses and a portion of content available through JSTOR. Kathi can share title lists for each vendor so we can compare products and duplication.

If we have a subscription with JSTOR and Project Muse, can YBP help us with deduping? Joan will check on that and report back.

Linda will be on vacation most of May and would like to keep momentum going. Kathi can work with vendors and ask questions, get quotes. Kathi can also schedule a meeting towards the end of May to discuss the choices, and include YBP to discuss deduping.

Kathi will follow up with Allison about buying club modeling and send it out.

### **Walk in user issue (All)**

If libraries want to use the walk-in user options they can implement the script. Joanne will follow up with Alison and/or Neil about options for including a guest user option and report back.