APPENDIX D: Responses From the Four UC Libraries With E-Book Experiments

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1. How long has your library been using ebooks? Which vendor(s) are you using?

Two libraries have had agreements with NetLibrary approximately one year and two have recently (in 2001) licensed NetLibrary books. Other ebook vendors licensed include Project CIAO, CogNet, Earthscape, Project Guttenberg, O'Reilly, MD Consults textbooks, UC Press, LION and Springer monographic series.

2. How many ebooks have you bought? In which subject areas? Have you bought year by year access or perpetual access?

The number of ebooks purchased ranged from 500 to 835. Two libraries chose a range of subject areas, one social sciences only and one computer, international relations and economics.

The three that responded had year by year access.

3. Are you purchasing and lending portable reading devices? If so, how is it working?

None of the libraries are purchasing portable reading devices.

4. How are you creating records in your catalog for the ebooks?

All four have records in their local OPACS; for those ebooks where they have the existing print version they have added links to the ebook version.

5. What kinds of publicity have you done?

The primary method of publicity has been announcements on the library web site, also several libraries wrote articles in faculty newsletters and local campus papers and sent announcements to faculty and graduate students.

6. How has the acquisition of ebooks affected your purchases of titles in print? Have you consciously decided to stop buying print for some categories/subjects (reserves, computer books, etc.)?

All four noted that there has been no significant impact on their purchase of print titles. One library noted that they licensed some ebooks titles that they would not have bought in the print (e.g., resume books, some new editions of IT titles).

7. What has been the response from faculty? From students? From librarystaff? How did you collect the information?

One campus has conducted a survey--the overall response was a mixed one. However, there was definite interest in having remote 24x7 access for reference purposes, but no user has

recommended giving up print. The other campuses felt that they were too early in the process to gather feedback.

8. Have you purchased titles through a consortium, or on your own?

All four purchased titles on their own.

9. Have procedures in your normal acquisition or processing operations required changes to accommodate the purchase of ebooks?

All four libraries felt that they had so few titles that there was no significant change in procedure. However one library noted that even though they are attempting to maintain existing processes, there has been the need for additional discussion to work out unforeseen issues.

10. Do you have concerns about resource sharing (ILL) and ebooks?

All campuses expressed concern about having access to ebooks for ILL. One campus tried to add a clause to the NetLibrary agreement allowing for ILL, but NetLibrary did not agree.

11. What role do you see for free ebooks (Project Gutenberg, UVA E-Text Project)? Are they being cataloged at your library?

Only one library has added free projects to their catalog.

12. What are your plans for working with e-information vendors like Ebrary and Questia?

None of the libraries have current plans to work with either Ebrary or Questia.

13. What do you see as the future of ebooks in your organization? What is the next step?

- Form a Task Force to evaluate the use and viability of netLibrary ebooks (2 libraries)
- Evaluate the netLibrary pilot as well as monitor and consider other ebook products.
- Begin ordering, buying and adding e-books with full catalog records.
- Short-term: we expect ebooks to have a strong niche role in IT, reference, and reserve reading (heavy use, short-term circulation).
- Long-term: monitor wireless connectivity – it is expected to have a major impact on how people receive and use information. Wireless may help support viable DRM models for monographic materials.

14. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Very interested in learning what is happening at other campuses and what kind of consortial project we can have for buying, cataloging, etc.
- Libraries need to get in on the ground floor to understand how (commercial) ebooks will fit into future services. The impact may be greatest for libraries on two ends of the spectrum: high circulation instructional and popular materials; and low-circulation research monographs (e.g. born-digital monographs, some University Press monographs, etc.).