

LACUNY Acquisitions Roundtable Meeting

May 4, 2006 2 p.m. Baruch Library Conference Room, 4th Floor

Attendees:

Chip Stewart	CC
Marsha Clark	CO
Jane Fitzpatrick	GC
Michael Waldman	BB
Pat Young	CO
Dolores Grande	JJ
Nancy Macomber	QC
Sharon Swacker	NY
Orley Jones	HC
Jean Boggs	HO
Ching Chang	ME
M. Kiriakova	JJ
KaChuen Gee	LE

1) Nancy Macomber presented an analysis of comparative values of e-packages by subject. Macomber divided e-journal titles into various subject funds via LC classification and then assigned a price to each title. The study included use statistics for each title and the database through which the title was accessed.

There was a general discussion about the usefulness of a system in allocating budgets for academic departments. This could be used to create a more accurate picture of what the library is actually spending on a particular discipline, by including serials budgets with monographs. Some considerations in creating a CUNY wide system were that every college classifies their disciplines differently. For example, philosophy could be either a social science or in the humanities. Elsevier is changing the compositions of various resource packages (what is bound together as a package) which would change the study.

This promoted discussion about pricing models of e-resources such as the cost-per -use-model. At ERAC, George Thorson had indicated that for some databases the cost is \$20-\$25 per article. Mike Waldman also cited an example at another college where federated searching was considered a use of the journal, resulting in exponential jumps in bills. Orley Jon introduced the notion of net neutrality to the conversation and how new costs for using the internet may be passed on to our vendors, which could cause price increases.

2) The CUNY libraries' purchase of West products was reviewed in the context of pricing and price sharing with the paralegal departments. Sharon Swacker (NY) reported on splitting invoices with departments, which allowed for half price on titles in the package. She also discussed a pitfall to avoid-purchasing a non-inclusive package. The non-inclusive package excluded an irregular but essential publication (Shepherd's) and when it arrived the bill was exorbitant compared to the \$100 dollar difference between the inclusive and non-inclusive subscription.

It was suggested that consulting the ABA website may alleviate some libraries of the cost burden of some titles. There are rules that allow

leniency in purchases if an educational institution is located within a certain number of miles from a court.

The discussion of the cost of law materials and their price relative to other disciplines correlated with Nancy Macomber's presentation: "What is the cost to support a paralegal vs. anthropology vs. nuclear physics student?" The Acquisitions round table indicated that this should be an ongoing area of investigation.

3) NYLINK is changing its billing policies which will result in greater expense to individual campuses. CUNY Central was previously covering the telecommunications bill, but this will no longer be the case. The billing is determined by a formula based on usage the previous year.

One suggestion: Find out when OCLC will be training and ask for specific explanation of the bill.

***NOTE: We have subsequently learned that CUNY Central will continue to pay these charges.

4) The practice and campus variations regarding the monies collected from lost books vary from campus to campus. In some cases, the monies are held by the library as "Department Services Funds" or "Agency Funds" that support various administrative library functions. On other campuses the libraries do not receive the monies received by the college from lost books.

5) A question was raised regarding the responsibility of the Acquisitions department in maintaining financial records. Generally, the Accounts Payable offices are the legally responsible record holders. Library invoice files are maintained for the purpose of ensuring that invoices were sent to Accounts Payable and for reference.

6) Foreign currency was also a topic of discussion. Some librarians use an exchange rate converter or send dollars (i.e. to Harassowitz). Several chief librarians use business credit cards issued from their financial offices. Graduate Center used a place in the Empire State Building that prints checks in foreign currency.

7) The legality of purchasing textbooks from India or Latin America was raised. Frequently, it was noted, the quality of the print is different (no color) and the shipping can take upto 2 months.

8) Marsha Clark reminded acquisitions librarians that 4 months after the creation of a BIB record, that holdings are exported into OCLC so, we need to remember to either suppress BIBs of orders that are lingering longer than 4 months or delete them from OCLC if books never arrive. When you delete a BIB record, you need to delete it from OCLC. Suppressed records are not sent to OCLC so one recommended practice is to suppress records that are "Out of Stock" or Backordered.

9) Coutts Evaluations:
Coutts is pretty much on target in fulfilling the terms of their contract with us.

20% of Coutts books did not arrive within 90 days

However, 90% of all books ordered arrived within 90-120 days.

Some of the delays occurred at the colleges' loading docks and within the departments, taking too long to open boxes. Many of the books that did not arrive were ordered pre-publication by the library.

The "books with asterisks" on the invoices, or the books for which we received no discounts, are primarily university presses. When a book is popular, publishers frequently announce that no discounts will be provided on that particular title.

The Central Office catalogs the paperbacks and has asked Coutts not to catalog them for CUNY.

Minutes taken by Jean Boggs.

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