

eBooks at GSU: Issues and Opportunities

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Student Facts

- 6,000 students, most part-time
- Commuter school
- Bachelor's completion and graduate programs



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Monograph Budget

- FY2001 - \$262,000
- FY2008- \$ 66,000



eBook Collections

- NetLibrary – 2003 to present
- Lippincott Springhouse/OVID Nursing Collection – 2006-7
- Credo Reference – 2007 to present

Overall... VERY LOW usage!!



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Example 1: NetLibrary

- 130 titles purchased with \$14,800 “end of year money” in June, 2004
(\$9,553 plus 55% access rate of \$5,254)
- Majority in Computer Science
- 108 titles used; 270 total accesses
- Max use: 12 (2 titles) most were used 1x
- 29 titles purchased in fall 2004 for \$1,500 (with \$227 annual service fee)
- Cancelled 6/2008



Example 2: Lippincott Springhouse Nursing titles

- Purchased with “soft” money
- 12 titles, clinical nursing
- \$4,000 / 1 simultaneous user
- **4 total uses** – CANCEL in 2007



Barriers identified

- Digital divide – our typical library user is a new immigrant to the electronic library world
- Voyager links are difficult to use – copy and paste?!
- Initially had to register on campus for NetLibrary



eBook Barriers cont'd

- Library faculty time and effort
- Choices of vendors/models is overwhelming
- Acquisitions and Cataloging
- Contracts have to go through the procurement office



eBook Barriers cont'd

- Funding – Cost/use analysis favors print
- Faculty and student are not yet participants in “eBook culture”
- Limits in Voyager are not intuitive (Must use Internet AND Main Stacks to exclude GPO documents)



Opportunities for further research for GSU Library

- Loss prevention for Computer Science titles (C++, Dreamweaver, etc.)
- Replace aging Reference books with eBooks?
- eTextbooks for reserve?



GSU Opportunities, cont'd

- Integration with Blackboard/WebCT?
- Libguides pages may help with functionality
- Journals/Databases A-Z list pages.....
- Reference Staff Training!



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