

Against the Grain

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Patron-Driven Acquisitions

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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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Patron-Driven Acquisitions

by **Xan Arch** (Collection Development Librarian, Reed College) <xanadu@reed.edu>



Are you tired of hearing about patron-driven acquisitions yet? PDA and DDA (demand-driven acquisitions) seem to turn up everywhere these days — in conference sessions, vendor visits, and library literature. You’re thinking, *how much more can there be to say?* You’ve heard so many librarians talk about their institution’s great success with PDA or their abysmal failure. What’s the big picture?

Well, take a look at this *Against the Grain* issue. It’s not your mother’s PDA.

We’re kicking it off with **Bob Johnson** and his discussion of the basics of the patron-driven model. He will give you newbies an idea of what matters when considering a patron-driven plan and what to watch out for.

Jason Price, on the other hand, isn’t sold on PDA yet. In his article, he proposes a new model for patron-driven plans that would free the content from restrictive digital rights management (DRM). It may take a superhero

to do this, but **Jason**, the DRM-inator, is up to the task.

PDA seems new and trendy but what happens with a patron-driven collection over time? **Peter Spitzform** at the **University of Vermont** has been running a PDA program since before you even knew PDA existed, and he tells us about how the model evolves. He presents data about the **University of Vermont’s** program as well as an exact measure of the effect of PDA on their collection. **Michael Levine-Clark** also discusses how to maintain your PDA collection over time and what libraries will need if we want to move more of our collections dollars to demand-driven models. If PDA is here to stay, how do you make sure you have the right content for your users year after year?

How will patron-driven acquisitions affect scholarly publishing? **Rick Anderson** and **Sandy Thatcher** have been giving this a lot of thought, and they debate the question in

these pages. **Rebecca Seger** and **Lenny Allen** also discuss how patron-driven acquisitions affect scholarly publishing, but they present the publisher’s perspective and challenges.

Finally, what could be more challenging than running a patron-driven acquisition program that covers thirty-six libraries? **Emily McElroy** and **Susan Hinken** are part of the Orbis Cascade Alliance consortium’s demand-driven acquisitions team, and their article discusses the Alliance’s search for an effective eBook strategy.

Big thanks to all the authors who turned out such great work, and especially to **Jesse Holden**, my most valued colleague, who reviewed and edited these submissions with me. 🍷

If Rumors Were Horses

Guess one of the biggest things that has happened recently is the merger of **EBSCO Publishing** and **The H.W. Wilson Company**. Is this an ideal match? The companies seem to think so. **Wilson** databases will be loaded onto **EBSCOhost** over the coming months. **EBSCO** will continue to maintain **WilsonWeb** until such time that all **Wilson** databases are available on **EBSCOhost** and customers have been transitioned to **EBSCOhost**. Those of us on the library acquisitions/leasing side of things hope we won’t see accompanying pricing increases! Watch for our interviews and see the full press release at <http://www.against-the-grain.com/2011/06/ebSCO-publishing-and-the-h-w-wilson-company-make-joint-announcement-of-merger-agreement/>.

Also — burning up the cyber waves is the litigation between **Georgia State University**, **Cambridge University Press**, **Oxford University**

Press and **Sage** with some financing from the **Copyright Clearance Center**. The plaintiffs have requested an injunction which would limit the amount of copying by professors that could take place without paying licensing fees. Currently professors make copies based on fair use guidelines. As **Kevin Smith** states in his blog, the case was completed as of June 9, and a decision is expected over the summer.

http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/05/23/university_presses_and_academic_publishers_keeping_pressing_georgia_state_on_copyright_issues

<http://blogs.library.duke.edu/schol-comm/category/copyright-in-the-classroom/>



Related to this case is the recent statement of principles regarding document delivery released on June 9 by

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