E-books
A university perspective

Andrew Wells
University Librarian
Outline

• Facts and trends
• The good and the not-so-good
• CAUL activities
• Textbooks and e-textbooks

AND A BIG THANK YOU TO GREG ANDERSON
E-books in university libraries

# of eBooks acquired - CAUL/CONZUL

- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011

UNSW Australia
UNSW e-book replacing print acquisition

YTD Total Orders via the Approval Plans

- 2010: eBooks 18%, Print 82%
- 2011: eBooks 25%, Print 75%
- 2012: eBooks 40%, Print 60%
Print loans declining (CAUL/CONZUL)
UNSW print loans

• 2002 saw 1.69 m loans

• 2007 saw 762 k (45% of 2002)

• 2012 saw 438 k (26% of 2002)
Scholarly publishing and university libraries

- Good summary in IFLA elending background paper
- University libraries have little exposure to trade publishers
  - Textbooks an exception
- E-journal experience applicable to e-books
  - Licensing and consortia
  - Technical infrastructure
  - Access regime
  - Established relationships
- Concern that ‘big deal’ features may flow through to e-books
  - Significant amount of content not used (‘digital dust’)
  - Cost per download – applicable to e-books?
The good things

• Good content – frontfile and backfile
  – Helps address space issues
  – Content is higher education level, scholarly and research
• Access to all users 24/7/365
• Cost lower – less processing, less handling
• Gradually catching up with how university libraries manage e-journals
• Ability to link content with online learning tools
• E-book metadata added to discovery applications (Primo, Summon etc)
• Choice in Procurement
  – Subscription
  – Purchase / ownership
  – Demand driven acquisition
Procurement models

- CEIRC (CAUL Electronic Information Resources Committee) involvement
- Aggregators initially dominant
- More direct purchase from publishers and suppliers
- JSTOR a recent entrant
- Long term access usually with direct purchase
- Subscription models work well for reference type collections – having latest edition more important than long term access
- Demand driven acquisition models
  - Attractive because users driving collection development
  - Pricing models not always attractive
- A lot of variety in licenses and procurement models – scholarly e-journal world more ‘predictable’
- CEIRC has model licence clauses
The not-so-good

- All the things that get in the way between the content and the user
  - File formats
  - Downloading restrictions
  - Printing restrictions
- Different access models
  - E-journals now mainly unlimited access, no concurrent user restrictions
- Complex pricing models
- Pricing and price increases all over the place
- Embargos on latest editions
The challenges and opportunities

• Interlibrary loan
  – What does it mean for an e-book
  – Some licences silent about this – apply Copyright Act
  – Some scholarly publishers adopting restrictive approach such as supply within a region
  – E-book acquisition replacing ILL when content is available

• Open access
  – Many Australian university libraries adopting open e-press models
  – Theses online for over a decade now
E-textbooks – a particular challenge

- University libraries supply limited numbers of textbooks
  - No legal obligation to do so (my reading of the law)
  - Provision ranges from small to generous
  - University libraries not the target market – students are
  - Print copies placed in reserve collections – limited borrowing periods

- E-textbooks
  - Can not generally obtain latest edition for mass market textbooks
  - CAUL encouraging publishers to test different models
  - Concurrent user model ‘replicates’ reserve collection model
  - Gillian Hallam report – e-textbook likely to evolve away from PDF as online teaching develops
  - MOOCs