A Consortial Breakup with Elsevier: Deciding not to Subscribe to ClinicalKey

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The Sunset

• MDConsult
  – Clinics of North America + a few other journal titles
  – Textbooks – UC had small package of educational books
  – Patient Care Handouts
  – Drug Reference

• ClinicalKey
  – Marketed as a clinical decision making tool
  – 1,000+ books, 600 journals
The Offer

• UC campuses in discussions with Elsevier since 2013

• Main concerns:
  – Price increase- final quote for system >95%
  – Selection of content- all or nothing
  – Lack of perpetual access- subscription, not purchase
Challenges to Licensing from Some Publishers

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Ivy Anderson, Director
Collection Development and Management
California Digital Library

The University of California libraries and the California Digital Library facilitate access to online resources through systemwide negotiation and licensing. At the same time, we seek to influence the marketplace through consortial licensing decisions. We think that we can best serve the long-term interests of UC faculty and students by insisting on resources that meet high standards for content quality, fair and affordable pricing, and licensing terms that allow broad access to our user community.

With a few publishers, these standards fall far short and become roadblocks in the licensing process. The following information is provided to explain to the UC community why systemwide licenses are not yet available for certain online resources. We continue to monitor these publishers and their licensing models in hopes of negotiating reasonable and acceptable terms for UC-wide access.

In most cases, the roadblocks to licensing center on sustainable pricing. There are serious budgetary issues facing the UC libraries which are discussed in a related public letter.

ClinicalKey (Elsevier Clinical Solutions)

After a year of careful consideration and analysis, the University of California Libraries decided not to subscribe to ClinicalKey in 2015. ClinicalKey is the broader in scope, replacement product for MD Consult (medical textbooks and journals). While the many resources on the new platform might be useful to our patrons, our strong reservations about the astronomical cost, the inflexible content model and lack of perpetual access to content have ultimately caused us to turn away from the deal.

Cost

- Our initial consortial quote for ClinicalKey was a 300% increase over what we had paid in 2014 for MD Consult and included multi-year pricing. The increased cost made it financially untenable for the University of California libraries.

http://bit.ly/1Krq7F8
The Decision

• Data!
  – Online usage statistics, print circulation, required texts for medical programs, electronic availability outside of CK, past patron requests, which titles were on reserve

• In Dec 2014/Jan 2015, UC campuses informed patrons that MDC was sunsetting and we would not be subscribing to CK
Handling Access Post-Breakup

• Journals
  – Dealt with consortially

• Ebooks
  – Managed on the campus level
UC Wide: Multi-campus journals

- Evaluated journal usage
- Campuses assessed journal importance in ‘niche’ areas
- Established cost model to add journal subscriptions for medical journals
- Divided Cost
  - Medical-ish campuses for system wide access
  - Each campus pays less than previous MDC cost
CAMPUS EXAMPLES
UCLA

• Letter sent to all M1/M2 Block chairs, student representatives & residency coordinators
  – Minimal requests for specific online textbooks (<5 titles)
  – One faculty advocated for cutting other difficult resources

• Ebooks replaced with one time only purchases from R2 and/or Ebsco

• Platform issues – whole download features, newer versions not being sold (or only for a short time) by third party vendors
UCSF

• Posted news item on our website and newsletter
• Emailed key stakeholders in SOM
• Print only
  – Ebooks on aggregator platforms too expensive, viewed as stopgap measure
• Ranked books by priority, ordered 17 out of 41
  – Received 5 requests from patrons
UC Davis

- Emailed stakeholders
- Created LibGuide
- Print Clinics
  - Increased ILL/doc delivery
- EBSCOhost, ebrary, EBL
Conclusions

• Every electronic platform has own drawbacks
• UC Libraries E-Book Value Statement:
  – ebook subscriptions more problematic than ebook package purchasing
• The Big Deal takes multiple shapes
• It’s okay to say no!
UC Libraries Collection Development Committee

UC Libraries E-Book Value Statement

February, 2013

As e-books evolve to provide essential content for use in teaching, learning, and research, the UC Libraries seek to develop the marketplace in ways that support our core values and the university's mission. We believe it is our responsibility to help shape the scholarly publishing landscape in ways that are responsive to the needs of our primary users and that enable us to be effective stewards of our libraries' collections funds.

The following statements of principle apply these values to the e-book marketplace and reflect our priorities. The UC Libraries are prepared to work with publishers, aggregators, and others within the academic community to develop appropriate standards and best practices that implement these principles.

Content Supporting Research and Instruction

- Simultaneous access by an unlimited number of users at a reasonable cost
- Simultaneous availability of front list titles in both print and electronic formats
- Consistency of content between print and electronic books, including supplementary materials and quality of illustrations

Fair Use & Scholarly Communication

- Licensing terms that do not limit fair use, Section 108, and first sale doctrines under US copyright law, including use of e-book content in course reserves, course management systems, and course packs.
- The right to borrow and lend e-books via interlibrary loan in a manner analogous to the loan of physical books, in addition to other fee-based methods that may be available for limited lending between institutions
- Licenses that support ad hoc scholarly sharing with colleagues beyond the confines of the institution

Positive User Experience

- The ability to discover and access e-books in a variety of ways including through library catalogs, format- and discipline-specific public portals, and other search interfaces preferred by users
- Content accessible and portable across a variety of platforms and devices, and able to evolve with the emergence of new technologies.
- The ability to print, copy, save, and annotate e-book content efficiently and easily, and to export bibliographic information to citation management software
- Ease of navigation: the ability to preview content before downloading; navigate e-book content through hyperlinked tables of contents, indexes, and footnotes; and return to content via persistent URLs
- ADA compliance in accordance with state and federal law.

Product Platforms

- Ability to migrate purchased and/or subscribed content between platforms, as platforms may evolve and change.
- If content purchased and/or licensed on one platform becomes available on other platforms, access to this content on all platforms will be provided at no additional charge.
- Confidentiality of user information. The UC Libraries fully endorse the California Reader Privacy Act (SB 602).
QUESTIONS

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