

# *Electronic collections development*

## **Strategic choices and pragmatic decisions**

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# CH political/cultural organisation



- » 26 cantons
- » 4 languages
- » 10 universities
- » 5 medical faculties
- » outside EU
- » surrounded by EU countries

Switzerland's linguistic regions, source : [fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suisse](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suisse)

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# ***E-collections***

- **Highly structured resources**
  - electronic secondary sources : databases, catalogs
  - the earliest forms of electronic data in the libraries
  - 1994 : databases accessible on a campus-wide network
- **Structured resources**
  - e-journals and e-books :
    - » electronic version of printed material, additional contents and functions
    - » original information material without printed equivalent
  - 1999 : the turning point
- **Diversely structured information resources :**
  - hypermedia and multimedia data : web sites, digital images...

# ***Management of e-collections***

- **Building e-collections**
  - acquisitions of packages licensed through consortium
  - gathering «free» information resources
  - collecting the institutional production
- **Promoting e-collections**
  - one or two main broad entry points (user-friendly)
  - plus specialised entry points automatically generated
  - training, «self training», «peer training»
- **Evaluating e-collections**
  - quantitative and qualitative data
  - users' feedback

# ***Building e-collections***

- **Packages licensed through consortium**
  - **packages**
    - » vendor-based packages (often subject-based) for books and DB.
    - » publisher-based packages (multidisciplinary) for journals.
  - **consortium**
    - » local consortium : Lausanne campus libraries
    - » subject based consortium : 5 Swiss medical univ. lib.
    - » national consortium : 10 univ., 2 federal inst. of tech.
    - » transnational consortium : GASCO

# ***10'000 licensed journals***

- **GASCO : NPG titles**
- **Swiss University consortium for multidisciplinary packages**
  - Springer / Kluwer : 1000 titles, Wiley : 400, Elsevier : 1 800
  - JSTOR : 170 titles
  - Academic Search Premier (Ebsco) : 3 000 Full Text titles
- **Swiss Medical Library Consortium for specialised collections**
  - 25 Societies journals with Highwire, 120 titles with LWW / Ovid
- **Local consortium : site licence for smaller publishers**
  - OUP package : 260 titles, BioOne, Annual Review
- **Cross access linked to single printed titles**
  - Medical library : 250 titles, Main SSH lib. : 300, other lib. : 100

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# ***Building e-collections***

- **Identifying and gathering «free» resources**
  - **from the traditional publishers**
    - » **partial open access (total open access unusual)**
    - » **selective access based on :**
      - type of article, format (html vs. pdf), countries, time period...**
  - **from the authors**
    - » **«author pays» open access : author pays to be viewed**
    - » **institutional repositories : institutions turn e-publishers**
    - » **personal archives : authors turn e-archivists**

after Ann Okerson, «The six flavors of open access» [Liber Quartely](#) 14,2004 : 339-347

# ***Building e-collections***

- **Collecting the institutional production**
  - **«know how» of the libraries**
    - » standards and metadata
    - » legal issues
    - » neutral
  - **many partners and interests involved**
    - » **the researchers** : to gain visibility
    - » **the administration** : to monitor and evaluate research
    - » **the clinicians** : to establish local professional procedures

# ***Promoting e-collections***

- **Signaling e-resources**
  - **one or two main entry points (gateways)**
    - » for searching contents (articles) : popular databases integrated on a single platform linked to e-resources
    - » for searching titles : a «googleamazonlike» application
  - **«secondary», specialised, entry points**
    - » automatically generated lists (by type of documents, by subjects)
    - » the library OPAC (?)
  - **metasearch tools or more functionalities on DB servers :**  
«related articles», «also read» articles, future citations

# ***Promoting e-collections***

- **Training**

- users generally reluctant to be trained
- access to e-collections should be intuitive
- encourage «self training» and «peer training».
- advertise additional functions

# Evaluating e-collections

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis
  - analysis of the portfolio
    - » printed subscriptions vs. e-subscriptions
    - » share of «fair deals», «big deals», individual subscriptions
  - analysis of the usage statistics
    - » what is a «successful» usage level :
      - does any ratio exist based on site size ?
      - a common rule :
        - 60% of downloads from titles not available in printed format on site
    - » how to value *html* vs. *pdf* ? *figures only* vs. *full text* ?
    - » 2004 cost of pdf+html (e-fees + value of print subscriptions) :
      - ELS4 >2, 50 €, then LWW, Wiley, Blackwell Pub. ≈ 2 €, Nature =0,65 €
    - » the real question behind the figures :
      - how much of the information accessed is actually read ?

# ***Evaluating e-collections***

- **Users' feedback at the University Hospital**
  - **totally accustomed to searching databases**
  - **strongly in favour of e-journals**
    - » **access 24/7, critical mass**
  - **rising awareness of other e-materials**
    - » **e-books, digital images**
  - **new demands for quick'nd easy access to all documents**
    - » **pressure on ILL**
  - **how do they value the e-services ?**
    - » **low awareness of the real costs of e-collections**

# ***No way out ?***

- **Wrong strategy ?**
  - **libraries still very vulnerable : downsizing threats**
  - **a two front struggle : between publishers price increase and insufficient institutional funding**
  - **lost of control**
- **Freedom to be regained**
  - **from the publishers constraints : escape globalization**
  - **from the consortium constraints : diverging interests**
- **Act locally**
  - **stick to the fundamentals : freedom of access, reliable archiving**
  - **ally with local researchers : distribute their production**

**Thank you**