

# Evidence-Based Acquisition of E-Books

## Experiences from UCL

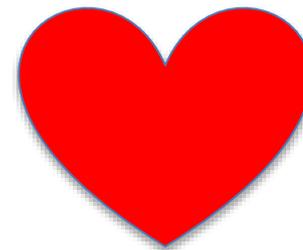
Anna Sansome - E-Resources Librarian



- Founded in 1826
- 35,000+ students from 150 countries
- Largest university in London and the largest postgraduate institution in the UK following the merger with IOE
- Top-rated university for research strength (REF 2014)



WE



BOOKS

("real" ones)

## Reasons for choosing EBA / PDA

- To find out whether our users actually do want e-books
- To give users access to a “critical mass” of content
- To be more agile in giving users what they want
- To ensure spend on e-books is targeted towards what people actually want
- To involve users directly in the selection of content
- To try to meet known and unknown unknowns

# Decision-making

- Working Group chaired by Assistant Director, Support Services and comprising:
  - Academic Support Manager (Biomedical) and Academic Support Manager (AHSS)
  - SSEES and IOE Librarians
  - Head of Teaching and Learning Services
  - Head of Cataloguing
  - And me 😊

## Selecting our EBA providers

- At the time there were really only three options – Wiley, CUP and Elsevier
- The Elsevier offer was expensive and crucially did not include their most recent content
- CUP is a key publisher for UCL but we were also running a PDA with JSTOR so.....
- We chose Wiley for our first project starting November 2014 – access to c17,500 e-books

## Decisions to be made around:

- Discovery
- Communication and promotion
- Managing user expectations



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Source: [Evidence-Based Hematology \[1-4051-5747-X; 1-4443-0085-7\]](#) Crowther

Year: 2009

Full Text

Available from [Wiley Online Library Online Books](#)



Access to this e-book is part of an [E-books on demand@UCL](#) project running until November 2016

Authentication: UCL username and password required for off-site access

# The users liked it.....

Nov 2014-Oct 2015

- 173,549 section requests
- 8300+ titles used at least once

....even the ones who weren't supposed to



Infrastructure Finance: The Business of Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future

Material Politics: Disputes Along the Pipeline

Fracking: The Operations and Environmental Consequences of Hydraulic Fracturing

Practical Osseous Surgery in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry

The Textbook of Pharmaceutical Medicine 7e

The Big Typescript TS 213, German-English Scholars' Edition

Child Psychology and Psychiatry: Frameworks for Practice 2e

Plastic and reconstructive surgery: Approaches and techniques

Quantitative MRI of the Brain: Measuring Changes Caused by Disease

Social Theorists, Volume I

Reconstructing Project Management

Collaborative Relationships in Construction: Developing Frameworks and Networks

Qualitative Research in Health Care 3e

The Handbook of Bilingualism and Multilingualism 2e

Rutter's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 6e

A Companion to Rock Art

A Companion to Bioethics 2e

Electric Vehicle Technology Explained 2e

A Companion to Museum Studies

The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists: Classical

The Wiley Guide to Managing Projects

The Blackwell Companion to Syntax (5 vols)

A Companion to Schopenhauer

The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Cultural Geography

Primer on the Metabolic Bone Diseases and Disorders of Mineral Metabolism 8e

Patch Clamping: An Introductory Guide To Patch Clamp Electrophysiology

A Concise Guide to Clinical Trials

The Handbook of Gender, Sex, and Media

The Handbook of Discourse Analysis 2e

A Companion to Biological Anthropology

# Purchasing decisions

- High-use titles from a range of disciplines
- Most-used titles were not associated with biggest courses
- Purchasing criteria:
  - Nothing under \$50
  - No old editions
- 337 titles purchased – some multi-volume works
- We probably side-stepped the biggest issues.....



# More EBA followed

## **Wiley (Dec 2015-Nov 2016)**

At end April 2016:

- 35,570 section requests
- 4380 titles used at least once

In the same period, 320 of the 337 we purchased in the first Wiley EBA have been used at least once – nearly 14,500 section requests

## **CUP (Sep 2015-Aug 2016)**

At end April 2016:

- 137,123 section requests
- 1616 titles used at least once
- Currently minimum 51 section requests for purchase

# And for the librarians?



- Publishers don't put all their content on their platforms – it still won't be the entirety of your spend with a particular publisher
- Old editions are an issue
- Lag between announcement of print publication and e-book being available (if at all)
- Publisher may tell you each month what has been added to your EBA or they may not.....
- Publisher may send you catalogue records or they may not.....
- Users get the benefit of agility but you still have to do the legwork
- Access to included titles may mysteriously disappear
- Publisher may be quick to confirm your list of purchase selections or they may not.....
- Crunching the numbers takes time

# Issues still to address

- Potentially diminishing returns – how do we address acquisition of e-books long term?
- How to fund e-book purchasing from existing resources – transition from p to e?
- How does EBA and e-book acquisition more generally fit into the wider collection strategy?