

Licensing Electronic Resources

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Why Online?

When the usage of the same print and online titles are compared, the online format receives at least 10 times more usage than the print.

Patterns and costs of printed and online journal usage
O Obst – Health Information and Libraries Journal, 2003

Comparing patterns of print and electronic journal use in an academic health science library
DH Morse, WA Clintworth – Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, 2000

Online journals: impact on print journal usage
SL De Groote, JL Dorsch – Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 2001

Why the Library and not IT or Medical Education, or the Finance Office?

Collection development practices that built collections designed to meet the clinical and research interests of a library's users are independent of medium. Collection development practices that created collections designed to fit a particular institution's needs can be applied with confidence to the electronic environment.

Quality markers and use of electronic journals in an academic health sciences library
JL Wulff, ND Nixon – Journal of the Medical Library Association, 2004

Initial Questions to Ask

Lease or Buy?

IPs or Username and Password?

Proxy Access/Intranet?

Institutional Software Issues?

One site or many?

One computer or many?

Pricing options?

Lease or Buy?

Leasing–

▶ Pros

- Always have the newest edition
- Usually less expensive than buying
- No older editions (depending on your situation, older editions can be a blessing or a curse!)

▶ Cons

- No archival rights
- No older editions

Lease or Buy?

Buying –

▶ Pros

- Have archival rights – more on that later!
- Have older editions

▶ Cons

- Usually more expensive
- Have older editions

Lease to Buy

Some vendors have an option whereby if you lease a resource for a certain number of years, after that period of time you own it.

Archival Rights Questions

- ▶ On the provider's server or tapes?
- ▶ If on the provider's server, for how long?
- ▶ If tapes, is an interface to content provided?
- ▶ Can your infrastructure support loading and managing tapes?

Remember, when a resource changes provider's, the archival rights access can change or disappear...

IPs or Username and Password?

Ips

- Will you be able to include all of your ranges, or will you be limited to just a few individual computer IPs?
- Can you include your Proxy IP, and if so, will it cost more?

IPs or Username and Password?

IPs

Pros

- Don't have to worry about a username and password falling into the hands of unauthorized users
- Don't have to figure out how to make a username and password available or how to build it into a url and make the access secure
- Can link out to material via PubMed, the catalog, a link resolver...

IPs or Username and Password?

IPs

Cons

- Need to know your IP ranges
- Need to figure out off site access via proxy or intranet.

IPs or Username and Password?

Username and Password

Pros

- Don't need to know your IP ranges
- Don't need to figure out off site access via proxy or intranet.

IPs or Username and Password?

Cons

- Security is a BIG!!! Issue. How will you keep the usernames and passwords secure? If you build the username and password into a url, how will you keep that secure? How will you make your users aware of the legal limitations of the username and password so they don't pass it around?
- Can't link out to resources in catalog or PubMed

Proxy Access / Intranet

- Will it cost more for proxy access or is that included?
- Will it work with the proxy or intranet setup that you have? You might want to do a test.

Institutional Software Issues

Some institutions have outdated software (such as old versions of Internet Explorer, old versions of Citrix, and old versions of Adobe Reader). This means that if the resource will only work with newer versions of certain software, you will need to work with your institution's IT Dept. to see if they will upgrade. If they can't or won't, then purchasing the resource will be a waste of money.

One Site or Many?

How many sites do you have? Pricing is sometimes based on FTE, or the number of physicians, or the number of life sciences faculty, etc. Sometimes it is based on the number of sites and what type they are – hospital?, University campus?, Research Center? – and if they are contiguous or not.

One Computer or Many?

When the license says “Online Access” make sure you know how extensive that access will be!!!!

Is the license a “sitewide” license that allows you to make the resource available to all of your users no matter where they are?

Or....

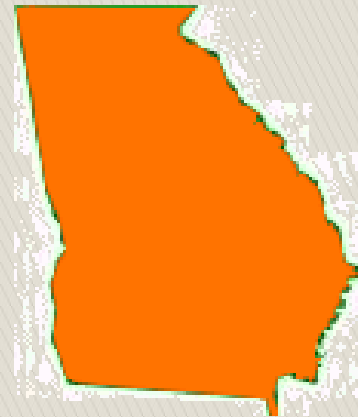
Does the license limit the usage to a certain number of users – ie you can only make the resource available on one computer, or only provide 5 physicians with the username and password.

Pricing Options

- Are the titles that you want also available in a package that will give you more titles for less money?
- Are there consortial options available for the resource?
- Are the titles and/or resource that you want available from more than one vendor? If so, the pricing and access may vary considerably from vendor to vendor. For example, one vendor may be less expensive, but not have as favorable archival rights as another. It just depends on what is important to you and your institution.

Complying with Georgia State Law

- »» If you receive state funding, then you will need to comply with Georgia State Law.



Georgia State Law

Contracts with state entities must be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia. State law provides that the Attorney General has exclusive authority and control over all matters of litigation or potential litigation involving State agencies. As a result institutions which receive state funding do not have statutory authority to accept the governing laws of another state.

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Georgia State Law

Indemnification provisions have been determined to violate the prohibition against pledges of the State's credit and the prohibition against gratuities by the State (Ga. Const. Art. VII, Sec. IV, Par. VIII; Ga. Const. Art. III, Sec. VI, Par. VI; 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 80-67; Op. Att'y Gen. 74-115. Indemnification provisions have also been determined to be invalid as unauthorized attempts to contractually waive the State's sovereign immunity 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 80-67.

ILL?

Can you use the material for document delivery (ILL) via standard document delivery systems such as Ariel in compliance with copyright law? If this is not in the license, can it be added?

Course Packs?

Can you use the online material for online course packs? If that is important to you, can you get that added to the license?

Usage Statistics

- Will you be able to get usage statistics?
- If so, will they be COUNTER compliant?
- Will you be able to view them online monthly?

Multi-Year Agreement

Will your institution allow you to do a multi-year agreement? If so, do you get state money? If so, then you might want to add a phrase that pursuant to O.C.G. A. Section 50-5-64, the Contract will terminate if your institution determines that adequate funds are not appropriated or granted or funds are de-appropriated so that your institution cannot fulfill its obligations under the contract.

How will your license get signed?

Does your institution have a system in place for dealing with licenses?

How will your license get signed?

Do you have legal counsel that will review your license?

- Remember, your institution's legal counsel may only be looking at the license to make sure it is legal. It may be up to you to make sure that library issues such as Course Packs and ILL are included.

How will your license get signed?

Who else reviews the license?

Make sure everyone who needs to see the license sees it!

How will your license get signed?

Who can sign the license?

For example, some institutions only allow persons at the Dean level to sign a binding contract.

Liblicense

<http://www.library.yale.edu/~llicense/index.shtml>

Contains

- ▶ Model license
- ▶ Vocabulary
- ▶ Terms and Descriptions
- ▶ Publisher's licenses
- ▶ Initiatives

How Will I Make Electronic Content Accessible?

Even if you have millions of dollars worth of resources, if your customers don't know you have the resources and/or can't find them, they are of no value.

Options—

- Open URL Resolver
- MetaSearch Tool
 - A to Z Lists
 - Linkouts

Conclusion

Online access can greatly enhance the usage of your collections. Just make sure you know what you are getting and that what you get can be used within the framework of your existing situation.