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Program Review: F4 Just in Time: Models of Demand-Driven Acquisitions for E-Books

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Program Reviews—F1 Orbis Cascade Alliance Summit

the migration outweighed the drawbacks but noted that technology systems will never be stable and as such rote learning is out. Thus, staff must develop a new set of skills that are flexible, explorative and problem-solving.

It is important to note that while each speaker frankly identified pitfalls of migrating to a shared ILS, each ended by noting that the benefits of collaborating with the other 36 member libraries of the Orbis Cascade Alliance outweighed the drawbacks. Anyone considering a shared ILS would benefit from watching this program. The session is available on AALL2go at http://aall.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx?PID=6278&SID=197633.

F4 Just in Time: Models of Demand-Driven Acquisitions for E-Books
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On the final morning of the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference 2014, I attended this program on demand-driven acquisitions for e-books. The panelists were Janet Sinder, coordinator and moderator, Director of the Library at Brooklyn Law School, Gilda Chiu, Collection Development and Acquisitions Librarian at Brooklyn Law School, Edward Hart, Assistant Dean and Director of the Law Library at the University of North Texas—Dallas (speaking on his experience as Head of Technical Services at the University of Florida), and Jacob Sayward, Head of Electronic Services at Fordham Law School.

Given the current struggles and debates surrounding e-book implementation in academic law libraries, this presentation was very timely and informative. The presenters discussed the demand-driven acquisition models that they had chosen for their libraries as well as the results. The structure of the program, as a question and answer to each presenter, really allowed the audience to appreciate the similarities and differences between the models.

The presentation began with a description of demand-driven acquisitions for e-books. The library first partners with a vendor. The vendor provides MARC records for the books that the library chooses to include in the catalog. When a patron accesses a record for a book that the library does not own, the patron can choose to browse that book. Depending on your parameters, a certain amount of browsing (beyond the table of contents) will trigger a short-term loan. The library can decide how many short-term loans will trigger the actual purchase. Both the short-term loans and the purchase have a fee associated with them.

Brooklyn Law School decided to go with YBP. With this model, they can manage one contract through YBP but receive content from multiple providers. Fordham chose to use one aggregator, EBL. The University of Florida used MyiLibrary.

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Brooklyn's and Fordham's programs were largely the same in terms of success. Brooklyn realized a cost-savings that they had not anticipated. Chiu stated that integrating e-books into the collection was the goal, but the cost-savings was a definite bonus. The on-demand model has allowed them to be more selective in monograph acquisition. Brooklyn's students have responded favorably to the new model. Fordham has not realized a cost-savings in monographs at this time, though it is a long-term goal, but they are getting a better value proposition for their expenses. Sayward stated that usage is good, but the feedback is mixed.

The University of Florida, on the other hand, did not succeed in their model. The law library and university library worked together to provide the e-book service through MyiLibrary. They did not pay a fee for short-term loans, and they also had negotiated a discount on e-book purchases. In the end, the vendor decided that it was not making money off them, and the model collapsed.

This presentation was very informative, and I'm very glad I went. The handout and presentation for this session are available on AALL2go.