

Print vs. E-journals: One Library's Quest for the final solution...

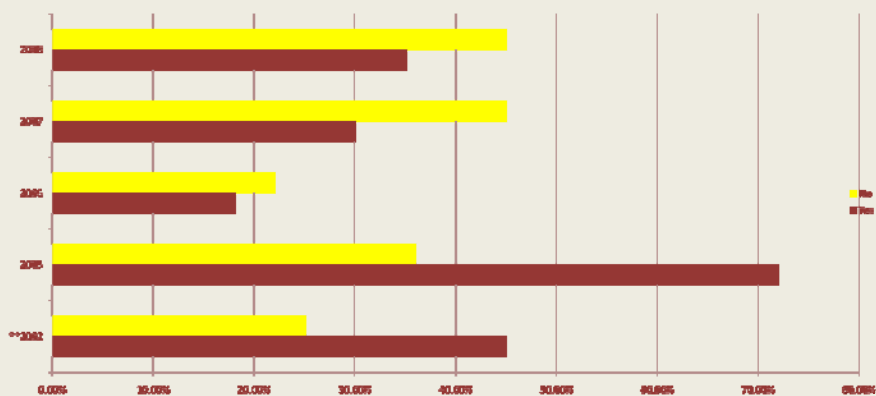
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ABSTRACT: Providing both print and electronic access to journals in a small hospital library is no longer possible but what is the best way to adjust services? An evaluation plan was developed to assess print journal use and guide decisions regarding format purchases.

PROBLEM: Chaos in publishing e-journals is confounded by the economic downturn. Library budgets are in turmoil. Providing both print and electronic access to journals is too complicated, particularly when publishers change their pricing structures mid-year and journal vendors scramble to keep up.

User Satisfaction Survey Results 2005-2008

"I want the library to provide ONLY electronic journals." Yes or No.



*Surveys only included physicians, residents and attendings.

** In 2002, the question was "How do you prefer to keep up-to-date with your information needs? Scan journals, books (25%) or Scan journals in electronic format (45%)?"

Evaluation Plan: February-August, 2009

- Develop list of all print journals
- Create a tally sheet for each journal and fix to each issue as it is processed
- Notify users of study
- Post survey reminder in library
- Collect data twice at three month intervals

Future Problems:

Archiving electronic journals when print journals are no longer retained by publisher

- 2006-present
- One-time purchase of archives for selected titles

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BACKGROUND Since 2004, the library has conducted an annual user satisfaction survey. In 2008, 64% of users indicated that they wanted the library to provide print journals. However there was no evidence that the journals had been moved or even touched. The remaining 36% said they only wanted e- journals. Which journals should be purchased in which formats?

To develop evidence of print journal use, an evaluation plan was developed by a librarian and student volunteer to assess print journal use and guide decisions regarding print and electronic purchases. It included a print journal inventory, a user survey, and data collection which enabled the librarian to create a final solution.

FINAL SOLUTION: Retain only some of the print journals

- I. Journals related to
 - a. residency programs
 - Internal Medicine
 - Radiology
 - OBGYN
 - Surgery
 - b. Hospital support service lines
 - Cardiology
 - Oncology
- II. Titles which require print purchase to get electronic access.

TOP 12 JOURNALS VIEWED 2/1/2009-8/17/2009

Journal Name	Times used
NEJM	30
Lancet	16
Circulation	17
Jnl of the American College of Cardiology	16
Annals of Surgery	10
Archives of Internal Medicine	8
Am Jnl of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine	7
Obstetrics and Gynecology	7
Clinical Infectious Diseases	6
Surgery	5
JAMA	4
Annals of Allergy Asthma & Immunology	3

SAMPLE ELECTRONIC JOURNAL USE 1/2009-6/2009

Journal Database	Searches
MD Consult	5,089
NEJM	1,497
Proquest Nursing	621
OVID	565
EBSCO	251
MEDLINE	107
CINHAL Full Text	109
Health Business	32
Psych Info	3
EBM Reviews	96