

On the Assessment of Acquisitions Methods and Usage of Print Monograph Collections: UCB & UCLA Libraries

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Introduction

Assessment of monographic resources is a critical prerequisite for the development of user centric and sustainable collections in academic libraries. The relationship between acquisitions methods and their impact on monograph usage has been understudied in the literature, which this research intends to investigate in a comparative style.

According to Library Journal's 2018 Survey, the academic library monograph collections are comprised of 60% print books, 40% eBooks of monograph collections

Even with increasing numbers of eBooks, monographic collections continue to occupy a significant portion of the library's physical space. Therefore, assessment of monographic resources is a critical prerequisite for the development of user centric as well as sustainable monograph collections in academic libraries.

Primary Research Question

"What is the correlation between various acquisitions methods and usage of print monographs?"

- When acquisitions processes for scholarly resources require more involvement from users or selectors, is it more likely that such resources will have higher usage on average?
- More formally, it is hypothesized that the more user-centric an acquisitions method is the higher circulation and/or overall usage is going to be for library resources.

Below is the acquisitions methods/user-centric spectrum for a graphical representation of the hypothesis.

The Acquisitions Spectrum - Moving along the spectrum to focus more on users

Less User-Centric

More User-Centric



Blankets — Approvals — Firm Orders — Slip Firm Orders — DDA

Design of the Comparative Assessment Study and Data

Print monographs - UCB & UCLA, 2009-2019

- Cataloging (single volume only)
- Acquisitions methods
 - Approvals (autoshipped materials)
 - Firm orders outside of the approval plan profile
 - Firm orders that were slipped on the approval plan but did not auto ship
 - DDA (encompasses DDA titles that are also part of the approval slip plan and requests purchased through ILL)
- English monographs: Select European Lang. monographs:
 - UCB – firm orders UCB, UCLA – approvals and firm orders
 - UCLA – approvals, firm orders, DDA
- Usage data
 - Circulation (Checkout (Millennium), Charge (Voyager) = Circ)
 - Overall Usage (circ, holds, reserves, recall, in-house browsing)

Assessing English Monographs, Acquisitions Methods and Usage, 2009-2019

UCB & UCLA English, Circulation by Acquisitions Methods, 2009-2019

	UCB	UCLA
# of Approval titles	-	77707
% Approval Circ	-	57%
# of Firm Orders	184463	58438
% Firm Orders Circ	60%	52%
# of DDA	-	14911
% DDA Circ	-	71%

UCLA English, Overall Usage by Acquisitions Methods, 2009-2019

	UCLA
# of Approval Titles	77707
% Approval Usage	75%
# of Firm Orders	58438
% Firm Orders Usage	70%
# of DDA	14911
% DDA Usage	97%

- Assessment data shows that a combination of different acquisitions methods such as detailed and well-calibrated approval and DDA plans have the potential to deliver highly circulated-usage English monographs
- In contrast, the selector-initiated and labor-intensive method of firm ordering yielded similar usage statistics.
- Utilizing this data on firm orders could present an opportunity for libraries to re-orient that same professional expertise towards more scholarly outreach and liaison work with faculty and academic departments.

Assessing Select non-English Area Studies Monographs

UCB & UCLA Select European Languages, Circulation by Acquisitions Methods, 2009-2019

	UCB	UCLA
# of Approval Titles	98969	57490
% Approval Circ	11%	13%
# of Firm Orders	32302	19322
% Firm Orders Circ	17%	23%

UCLA Select European Languages, Overall Usage by Acquisitions Methods, 2009-2019

	UCLA
# of Approval Titles	57490
% Approval Usage	36%
# of Firm Orders	19322
% Firm Orders Usage	42%

- Applying the acquisitions spectrum, firm ordering of foreign language materials seems to be associated with higher circulation and overall usage.
- The results also point out area studies selectors' regional expertise and knowledge of smaller groups of faculty and students as primary user-base for such materials.

Conclusions and Broader Implications for Planning and Building Print Monograph collections

- Comprehensive approval + DDA vs firm ordering for English language monographs
- Firm order + DDA + smaller approval plans for foreign languages
- Usage is not one dimensional: important to capture all usage categories for print materials in SILS
- Telling a story with usage : remain cognizant of acquisitions methods and their connection with collection usage