Meeting Minutes

Library Association of the City University of New York

11-20-2009

LACUNY Acquisitions Roundtable Meeting Minutes, November 2009

LACUNY

Fall Acquisitions Roundtable Committee

Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 20th at 2:00pm

ATTENDEES

BB   Mike Waldman
BM   Linda Wadas

BC   Susan Vaughn, Graciela Canada
CC   Chip Stewart
CL   Nancy Macomber
GC   Jane Fitzpatrick
HO   Jennifer Tang
HC   Lisa Finder
JJ   Dolores Grande, Gretchen Gross
KB   Cecilia Salber
LG   Alex de Laszlo

ME   Ching Chang, Karen Mason
NY   Monica Berger
CO   Marsha Clark

MINUTES

(1) Roundtables vs. Committees

The meeting opened with a discussion of Darrow Wood's email and whether
Roundtables or Committees can be distinguished from one another or should be
combined. For example, should ALEPH issues be addressed by Committee meetings
or the Roundtable ones? Roundtables are generally more informal and address different
issues, observed Alex. One suggestion was the possibility of drafting a mission
statement to delineate the purpose of the committee.

(2) Ebooks

The committee discussed the impact of eBooks. Among the topics examined were
purchasing issues, such as the option to buy; licensing issues; and the challenges of
selecting eBooks when they are bundled in packages. Advantages cited were higher
circulation statistics and the possibility that smaller libraries would benefit as much as
larger ones. Buying eBooks from vendors such as Coutts, Ebrary and MyLibrary were
compared. Of particular concern was the platform that would used to view eBooks.
Devices such as laptops and the Amazon Kindle were analyzed, and compatibility
issues were a major concern. Cataloging eBooks using MARC records from OCLC

were also discussed. Marsha recommended going to the Technical Services Wiki/Acquisitions folder for information on cataloging eBooks.

Chip brought up the issue of eBooks pricing. Pricing models for eBook model differ from print – only one copy is offered, and eBooks are currently being offered at list price without a discount. If four colleges buy the same book, shouldn't they get a discount? Are volume discounts available from eBook vendors? Marsha suggested that we would get some discount off of packages only if enough colleges buy the same titles.

Lastly, how students would react to eBooks was also examined. Would they prefer some formats to others?

As part of the discussion on collection development, the commitment discussed how receptive acquisition departments should be in response to a faculty request. General consensus was that faculty requests should be fulfilled depending on budget. They can submit recommendations via the web link as well as encouraged to use Reserves and CLICS.

(3) CUNY Textbook Initiative

While the CUNY Textbook Initiative was funded, $15K, then 30K was slated to be cut from Acquisitions budgets all over CUNY. Question of what will happen after the funds are gone was raised. CCDA funding has been allocated but not distributed, with an expected reduction of 10% compared to last year.

(4) ALEPH

Only two colleges have done an inventory of ALEPH records, a time-consuming and labor intensive project – Brooklyn received a grant and was able to do this. Inventory took into account missing books, replacements and attempted to validate accuracy of holdings.

(5) Payments

The contract with NYLINK has been signed, but not voted on by NYLINK. ScienceDirect bill will be paid and invoives sent to individual libraries.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Spring.