

Purchase and Management of Digital Collections in France

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A decorative graphic element consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, white, and light blue) extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne...

- Re-funded in 1971 (consequence of the French May !)
- 3 main families of subjects : Economics and Management / Law and Political Science / Humanities
- 40 000 students
- 1000 teachers et researchers
- 1200 technical and administrative staff

Libraries in Université Paris 1 :

- The Central University Library
- Cujas Inter-university Library
- Sorbonne Inter-university Library
- 40 smaller specialized libraries and documentation centres

How to purchase ?

Public Procurement in France

Public Procurement in France

- Public Procurement = contract between a public entity and a private company to procure works, goods or services
- 3 principles :
 - Free Access : any company can apply
 - Equal Treatment : the same information must be given to every candidate
 - Transparency of the procedure : the final decision must be based on objective criteria

Main procedure : public invitation to tender

- Technical requirement produced by the public entity
- Notice of a competitive public tender
- Companies have 2 months to download the file and send a proposal
- Analysis of the bids
- Allocation of purchase orders to one candidate for a maximum period of four years

Public procurement for digital collections...

- Two historic providers : subscription agencies
Swets and Ebsco
- Few booksellers
- Expected services : good deal of knowledge of digital publishing and its technical specificities ; intermediary between publishers and librarians ; reactivity
- Foreign companies can participate !

How much to purchase ?

Budgetary Situation in French Universities

The French law on the freedoms and responsibilities of universities (LRU)

- Act of 10 August 2007. Universities gradually :
 - Get budgetary autonomy
 - Manage directly their human resources
 - Own their property
- But the State's withdrawal leads to a financial crisis among French universities

Budgetary context in France

- Increased payroll
- Decreased spending on teaching, research... and libraries !
- National survey among 100 universities (October 2012) :
 - maintained investment in library in 2013 : 35%
 - reduced investment in library in 2013 : 62%
 - average drop announced : -9%

Budgetary context in Paris 1

- A university in debt since 2011
- Teachers decreasingly hired
- Investment budgets heavily reduced (property, computer infrastructure, etc)
- ... but investment in libraries has been maintained in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (for how long ?...)

To purchase what ?

Acquisition policy and selection criteria

Library policy decisions (2008-2012)

- Adjustment variable n°1 : print documentation
- Adjustment variable n°2 : documentation for students
- Consequence : provision of books for students heavily reduced between 2008 and 2012, cancellation of print journals

Library policy decisions since 2012

- New adjustment variable : ill-used and non-bundled digital subscriptions
- Coming soon: cancellation of package deals and return to individual journals
- Consequence : end of non-bundled journals, end of ill-used electronic databases, unwillingness to any new subscription

Selection criteria (1)

- **Content**
 - General-interest or student-oriented resources
 - French-speaking resources
- **Business model**
 - Purchase rather than subscriptions
 - Ill-used products replaced by new products equal in price
 - Title-by-title purchase (no more bundling !)
 - No platform fees

Selection criteria (2)

- Access
 - Remote access mandatory
 - Unlimited simultaneous access
 - No DRM for e-books
 - Usage reports mandatory
- Coming soon : resource mentioned in the knowledge base of our discovery tool

Decision-making process

- February to March
 - Collection and analysis of usage reports
- March to June
 - Trials on new products and evaluation through online surveys
- September
 - Requests for quotations
- September to October
 - Meetings with the acquisitions team
- November
 - Next year's budget preparation
- December
 - Decision of next year's subscriptions

Support of Open Access

- Subscription to Open Edition Freemium, from the Centre for Open Electronic Publishing (Cleo)
- Support of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Participation to a national working group for Open access
- Information and education of our researchers and doctoral students

Enhancement of electronic resources

- Access provided on the Domino portal :
<http://domino.univ-paris1.fr>
- OpenURL link resolveur
- Cataloging of ebooks into the library's catalog
- Coming soon : purchase of a discovery tool

Towards a national policy for STI

Digital Scientific Library (BSN)

Digital Scientific Library

- Research infrastructure led by French Ministry for Higher Education and Research
- Coordination of projects relating to scientific and technic information (STI)
- 9 working groups among which : acquisitions, access, open archives

ISTEX project

- Program of acquisitions of scientific resources
- Purchase of retrospective datas (backfiles, databases, corpus of texts) in all subjects
- National licence agreement : resources should be remotely accessed by all members of higher education and research institutions.

Two national entities

- Couperin (University Consortium of Digital Publications) :
 - a network uniting universities and research institutions (210 members)
 - evaluates, negotiates and arranges the purchase of electronic library resources
- ABES (Bibliographic Agency for Higher Education) :
 - publicly-owned body within the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research
 - purchases digital resources negotiated by Couperin

Implementation

- National survey among researchers (fall 2012)
- Call for tender : publishers send proposals
- First selection of resources
- National trial on the selected resources
- Negotiations
- Purchase of the resources through a national agreement
- Coming soon : hosting platform for the datas

Financial Means

- 60 million Euros of public funding to spend over 3 years (2014-2016)
 - 55 million to purchase the collections
 - 5 million to create a platform for the datas

Collections already purchased

- Backfiles journals and online encyclopaedias
- In humanities :
 - Brill backfiles (220 journals)
 - Early English Books Online (Proquest)
 - Eighteenth Century Collections Online (Gale)
 - Dictionaries and grammar books (Garnier)
 - New Pauly Online (Brill)
- Coming soon : 2nd selection, based on corpus of texts and ebooks

In conclusion...

- Libraries have widely switched from print to digital collections
- But now budgetary issues and business models paralyze acquisition policies
- To really do their job, librarians want flexibility and freedom of choice back !

For more information...

- Public procurement :
 - <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr>
- Freedoms and responsibilities of universities :
 - <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid55933/presentation-autonomie-des-universites.html>
- Digital Scientific Library :
 - <http://www.bibliothequescientifiquenumerique.fr>
- ISTEEX project :
 - <http://www.istex.fr>
 - <http://www.licencesnationales.fr/>
- Couperin : <http://www.couperin.org/>
- ABES : <http://www.abes.fr>

Thank you !

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