I Want *That* One!

obtaining major textbooks electronically at
Trinity College Library Dublin

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*March 2011*
The Problem

• Not enough texts for 1000+ undergraduate students
• But... received funding from School of Nursing and Midwifery to purchase more for new courses. Should I buy hundreds of copies of the most used texts?
  – Space issues
  – Expectation of new editions arriving soon
  – Probably still wouldn’t be enough!
E-Books a Solution?

• Many leading texts unavailable – or are they? Perhaps at the right price...
  - Look at reading lists
  - Note main texts
  - Note main works not covered by current e-book provisions
  - Contact a publisher directly
Options: Purchase or Subscription?

• Example: MyiLibrary/Coutts – 1-3 concurrent user licence, outright purchase
  – Currently not integrated into normal ordering process

• Example: Elsevier E-Textbook service (brand new 2010/11) – unlimited access, subscription only

• Is there any other way?
Some Details of the E-Books Pilot with Wolters Kluwer (WK)

- Involved me and Arlene Healy (Sub-Librarian, Readers' Services) at TCD, Anne O’Riordan (Regional Manager for Ireland & Scotland, Ovid Technologies) at WK
- WK incorporates:
  - Ovid – including books@ovid for e-books, OvidSP databases and nursing@ovid
  - LWW – print books and associated extra electronic content ("thePoint")
- Talks began in spring 2008, deal agreed summer that year
Timeline

- Informed of publishers' standard e-book offerings
- Contacted Anne O’Riordan at WK, suggested some more useful titles
- She then sent the idea upstairs...
- What would be the effect on print sales of offering the “best” books?
- Several phone calls, e-mails, meetings – then publishers agree in principle
Timeline 2

- Publishers agree to make the eight desired titles available, with extra content, and 17 additional titles.
- Unlimited access, outright purchase, updated editions within two years, some extra content at "thePoint" – the latter includes lesson plans, animations, videos... for staff and students.
Timeline 3

- Price negotiation – not in isolation, but discussions take part in context of renewal/ordering of other offerings from publishers
- Implementation
- Troubleshooting – access, MARC records, passwords
- Promotion
- Evaluation of use
Promotion

By the Publishers

• Demo to first year nurses (c.250 students) when first introduced
• Demo to nursing/midwifery staff when first introduced
• Survey (with prize!) organised by publisher – c.100 responses from students, plus some in-depth interviews
• Regular meetings between TCD and publishers’ representatives
Promotion 2

By the College

- Mentioned in my databases/catalogue training
- Links to collections from my page at http://www.tcd.ie/Library/support/subj ects/nursing-midwifery/
- MARC records in catalogue
- Stickers on physical copies on shelves
- Separate link to resources at "thePoint" in catalogue
Do Students Actually Want E-Books?

• Anecdotally:
  – Useful supplement, not replacement
  – Still too hard to read on screen
  – Difficult to save/transfer sections
  – Printing limits

• But they ignore print journals?!
  How are they different?
  – Length
  – Available as saveable PDFs
  – Linked from databases
Thanks For Your Attention!

For more information contact me at:

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