The Long and Winding Road to Building an Electronic Reference Collection

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Planning the Trip

• In 2008, major review of reference collections in Watson and Anschutz Libraries
• Reduced physical collection by 50%
• Focused, updated, relevant collection
• Opened up more space for users
• Improved accessibility by increasing electronic reference titles --- 24/7 access
Planning the Trip

• LibGuides --- better to link to actual title, rather than a catalog record or list of books
• Recent push for distance education (KU Center for Online and Distance Education)
• Reference material is good to have when you are at home and need to look something up
• E-mail & IM Reference
• Subscriptions to aggregated reference collections
  – *Examples: CREDO Reference, Oxford Reference Online, Gale Virtual Reference Library*
The Starting Line

The Chicago Manual of Style Online

- Subscription reference titles, not sold as books
  - Chicago Manual of Style
- Package subscription multiple reference titles
  - Europa World Plus, PsychiatryOnline

EUROPA WORLD PLUS
Starting the Journey

• New collection development policy
  – “an electronic preferred policy for the reference collections. When a book is available electronically and in print, the electronic copy is generally purchased.”
  – Assist subject bibliographers with purchases
  – Augmented approval plan
    • Moved YBP profiled reference titles to all slip plan
      – More selective acquisition
      – HUGE $avings
      – Increased control over format
• Acquisitions
  – Irregularities of electronic reference titles
    • Packaged in many different ways
      – Subscription, individual titles, publisher aggregator, reference e-book aggregator, e-book aggregator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier</th>
<th>Purchase Option</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Library Availability</th>
<th>Preview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBL</td>
<td>Non-Linear Lending™</td>
<td>362.25 USD</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Preview</td>
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<td>ebsco</td>
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<td>Review</td>
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<td>Gale Online</td>
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<td>623.70 USD</td>
<td>Available</td>
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• Acquisitions
  – Irregularities of electronic reference titles
    • Packaged in many different ways
      – Subscription, individual titles, publisher aggregator, reference e-book aggregator, e-book aggregator
  – Understanding acquisitions workflow
Making a Legend

• Purchasing Priorities
  – Aggregate collections
    – Widgets
    – Fewer places to look
    – Easier to purchase
  – Ebrary
    • Multiple users
    • Licensing
  – Standing order
• Tracking purchases
Bad Road Signs

• Discovery—HUGE problem!
  – No shelf to walk to
  – Hidden in catalog
    • Especially if an individual title—not in a package
  – Project to increase visibility
    • Added 655 field “Electronic Reference Works”
  – Created Libguide – Reference E-Books
    • No usage!
    • Staff didn’t remember
Record with 655 added

Cambridge dictionary of sociology general editor, Bryan S. Turner.

Database: University of Kansas Libraries
Portion of Title: Dictionary of sociology
Linked Resources: Connect to electronic text. — (Source: Credo reference)
Other Entries: Turner, Bryan S.
Subject(s): Sociology — Dictionaries.
Genre Headings: Electronic reference works.
Electronic books
Format: Book
Description: xx, 688 p.
Summary: Examines both American and European traditions and approaches to sociology. Entries cover schools, theories, theorists and debates, with substantial articles on all key topics in the field. While recognising the richness of historical sociological traditions, the Dictionary also looks forward to new and evolving influences such as cultural change, genetics, globalization, information technologies, new wars and terrorism.
General Notes: Title supplied by vendor.
Includes graphical cross-reference mapper.
Availability: Licensed for all KU students, faculty, and staff connecting to the Internet.
KU Bib ID: 6705723
System Numbers: (CMIDG)xicrc00000474
Direct URL for this record: http://catalog.lib.ku.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?bbid=6705723
Location: Available via the Internet
Status: Item details not available
Suggested Books By Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Studies</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science and Engineering</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Engineering and Science</td>
<td>Medicine and Health</td>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture and Design</td>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art and Art History</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Studies</td>
<td>Government Information</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Languages and Literature</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proceed with Caution...

• Solution
  – Catalog tab
    • “Electronic Reference Works”
  – Focusing on four publishers
    • Credo, Oxford, Sage, Gale
  – Getting titles not from those publishers in Ebrary
    • Large e-book collection
Search the Catalog for E-Reference Titles

Search for  biographical dictionary

in  Keyword Anywhere

Search

Browse All E-Reference Titles

Please see Terms and Conditions. Off-campus connections may require a login.

Starting Points

Credo reference
Credo Reference is an online collection of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other ready-reference books covering a range of subject matters, such as art, business, literature, and science.
Full Record

Gale virtual reference library
Gale Virtual Reference Library provides a platform for searching Gale reference titles simultaneously.
Full Record

Oxford reference online. Premium
Cross-searchable online database of Oxford University Press subject dictionaries and reference works.
Full Record

Sage reference online
Sage Reference Online contains a selection of encyclopedias and other ready-reference books.
Are we there yet?

• Increased choices=collection development confusion
• Discovery & use remain a problem
  – Staff
  – Patrons
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