

## Aggregator eBook Comparison Chart and Appendix

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**Credits:** Questions on the ebook aggregator comparison chart were adapted with permission of Cris Ferguson and editor of Against the Grain from eBooks Rollout chart published November 2006 in Against the Grain ([www.against-the-grain.com](http://www.against-the-grain.com)).

Questions were developed by the Alliance-cdmc steering team; responses were supplied by ebook vendors listed in the contact section and results were compiled by Diane Carroll.

### Questions:

Column	Questions
A	Name of product / platform
B	What year did your service begin?
C	How many ebooks do you offer?
D	What subject areas do your books cover?
E	How many publishers are represented in your eBook collection?
F	Describe the primary types of eBooks that you offer. Reference Materials? Non-fiction? Fiction? Scholarly? Research Oriented? Etc.
G	How many users may view a single eBook to use it?
H	Do you require a user to "check-out" an eBook to use it?
I	Is a proprietary reader or piece of software required to view your eBooks?
J	How are the eBooks displayed to users? As PDF images? As HTML? Some other format?
K	Do you have any feature for ADA compliance?
L	Can users print portions of an eBooks? What restrictions apply?
M	Can users download portions of an eBook? What restrictions apply?
N	Can users copy and paste portions of an eBook? What restrictions apply?
O	Do you offer MARC records for eBooks? Is there a cost?
P	Do you permit MARC records be uploaded into EBSCO?
Q	Are your eBooks sold on a title-by-title basis, as part of subject collections or both?
R	Briefly explain your pricing model. Purchased with archival rights? Subscription basis only? Both?
S	Are there ongoing maintenance costs?
T	Do you offer patron mediated purchasing models? Briefly describe.
U	Please give an example of an eBook you offer and provide print and online costs.
V	Is a signed license required before eBooks can be purchased? If so, who is the contact for the license?
W	Describe interlibrary loan rights.
X	Describe eReserve rights
Y	Do you work with consortia to provide special pricing and shared access?
Z	Please define any abbreviations that are commonly used when discussing your products.

## **APPENDIX- Additional information for NetLibrary**

### **NetLibrary Column D: Subject areas?**

**Public libraries:** **Fiction:** Adult, Young Adult and Children. **Non-Fiction:** Vocational Guidance; Personal Finance; Self-Help; Business; Psychology; Health & Wellness; Philosophy; Religion & Spirituality; Consumer Law; Homework Help & Study Guides; Test Preparation; Home Computing; General Reference; Contemporary Issues; Crafts & Hobbies; Home & Garden; Travel; Language Learning Materials; Biographies & Memoirs; Sports & Recreation; Audiobooks; Databases: Journals.

**Corporate/special libraries:** Medical; Pharmaceutical and biotechnology, information technology, including computer science, networking, telecommunications, and information technology trends; general business, human resources and professional development; engineering

### **NetLibrary Column I: Reader or other software?**

EBSCO also offers an offline reading solution in order to make library eBook collections more accessible. The Adobe Content Server (ACS) license allows patrons to check out and download PDF formatted eBooks to multiple platforms, including desktops, laptops, and select mobile devices. For libraries that wish to meet the offline reading needs of their patrons, EBSCO offers the Adobe offline reading annual license for \$350 per institution. This pricing is valid through December 31, 2009. The license is valid for twelve months. Only titles in PDF format are downloadable using the ACS tool. Currently 61% of NetLibrary eBooks are PDF titles. Downloading eBooks requires that patrons have Adobe Digital Editions (ADE) version 1.6.934 installed and Adobe® DRM activated. ADE may be downloaded free of charge from the Adobe website.

### **NetLibrary Column R: Pricing model and perpetual access?**

For consortia, eBooks are priced using an FTE model. (FTE Full Time Equivalent) counts are used to measure the size of an institution for the purpose of pricing. Depending on the FTE of the consortia, a certain number of simultaneous users is required to be purchased for each eBook. For consortia purchases, a content and access fee will apply. To calculate the content fee, multiply the list price total by the number of SU's required. To calculate the access fee, multiply the sum total of the list price of the content by .15 (for annual access) or .55 (for prepaid access). Note: if the group is purchasing more than 6 simultaneous users, access will be charged on the first SU plus one for each multiple of 6.

### **NetLibrary Column T: Patron mediated purchasing?**

The general process is as follows:

- 1) A unique library can decide if it wants to make an advance payment-- which will pay for the titles in advance--or if it wants to pay as they go. Expenditures in the pay-as-you-go model are controlled with an annual cap, and expenditures in the advanced payment model will equal the amount of the initial deposit.
- 2) Patrons are provided access to the titles from the candidate list, and access causes those titles to be automatically purchased on behalf of the library. A library is notified about their purchases on a monthly basis.
- 3) A library establishes the criteria for the titles to make available to patrons as part of the PDA. The list of candidate titles can be a set list, or it can be based on a PDA profile that defines criteria for the addition of new titles over time. It can even be all newly added titles.

4) Patrons are provided access to the titles from the candidate list, and access causes those titles to be automatically purchased on behalf of the library. A library is notified about their purchases on a monthly basis.

5) The PDA process continues indefinitely until the deposit amount is depleted, the cap is reached, or until you decide to cancel the PDA. 6) The PDA program is available through EBSCO for individual institutions.

### **NetLibrary Column U: ebooks and Pricing**

For a consortia with an FTE approx 230,000, four SUs need to be purchased. The title is \$30, multiplied by four SUs. This equals \$120. If the consortia chooses to pay the 55% pre-paid access fee, they would calculate this by multiplying  $\$30 \times 0.55$ , or \$16.50. The content price (\$120) and the access fee (\$16.50) total to be \$136.50. Consortia of this size receive a 10% discount on the order, which would equal  $\$136.50 \times 0.90$ , or \$122.85.

If the consortia chooses to pay an annual access fee of 15%, then the access fee would be determined by multiplying the content fee (\$120) by 0.15, equaling \$18. The 10% discount would also apply, thereby bringing the total for the first year to  $(\$120 + \$18) \times 0.90$ , or \$124.20. An individual library can purchase a title for the list fee plus the access fee. Therefore, a single institution can buy this title at \$30 (list price) + a prepaid access fee ( $\$30 \times 55\%$ ), or  $\$30 + \$16.50$ , or \$46.50. An individual library can purchase this title with ongoing access as well, paying  $\$30 + (\$30 \times 15\%)$ , or  $\$30 + \$4.50$ , or \$34.50. The following years the library would need to pay the 15% access fee of \$4.50 every year, up to four years, unless the library wishes to weed the title

### **NetLibrary Column Z: Definitions**

**Library eBook Agreement:** Purchasing vehicle to enable individual libraries to make individual purchases of Unique Collections. Does not enable Shared Collection purchases or any other purchases through a Network or other Consortium, and does not enable participation in shared collections.

**Consortium:** Two or more libraries, under separate administration, who come together to make a Shared Collection purchase.

**Consortium eBook Agreement:** Purchasing vehicle to enable Consortium to purchase Shared Collections. Member eBook Agreement: Tailored to each Consortium, must be signed by all Members, and also functions as a purchasing vehicle to enable Unique Collection Purchases.

**Shared Collection:** purchased by a Consortium, access available to designated members of that Consortium. Consortium Agreement required for central administration, Member eBook Agreement required for all Members. Unique Collection: chosen and purchased by a single institution, access available only to Patrons of that institution. Library or Member eBook Agreement required.

**FTE (Full Time Equivalent)** counts are used to measure the size of an institution for the purpose of pricing. For academic institutions, FTE correlates to the enrollment at the organization. For Public libraries, population served should be acquired directly from the library or regional network. School library FTE should be derived from the local board of education. For corporate libraries, the number of employees should be obtained directly from the corporation.