The Library Consortia landscape in Europe : some features

ALPSP Seminar

Publishers and Library Consortia: changing perspectives

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Library consortia in Europe

- ICOCL members : 50 European consortia (March 2011)

  … some of them are not directly implied in licensing : e.g. LIBER, SCONUL,CURL, RERO

- French survey, 2010 for a Report to the Minister of Higher Education and Research on *Costs, Benefits and Limitations of Electronic Resources Sharing* : 47 requests, 10 answers (France 1, UK 3, Germany 1, Italy 2, Spain 2, Switzerland 1 ; Eastern Europe : 0)

  …completed with informations published on websites for about 15 consortia

A variety of legal statuses

- No legal status (informal cooperation)
- Department of a library or of a library cooperation centre
- Organization with a service unit integrated in a national library
- Public institution or part of a public institution
- Coordination group between public institutions
- Part of a larger public consortium (e.g. for network and computing infrastructure)
- Not-for-profit institution
- Mutual trading company

Similarities and differences

- Consortia supported by public institutions
- For the most, created between 1990 and 2000

But

- More or less integrated in larger activities e.g. linking electronic resources (ER) management and networking
- More or less coordinated or centralized… or informal

Missions

- Common to nearly all consortia :
  - Licensing, purchasing and managin ER, training
- Often integrated in larger cooperative missions :
  - Shared purchasing and preserving, union catalogues
- Or linked to larger missions in the electronic field :
  - Electronic management and preservation, open institutional repositories
- Seldom linked to a bibliographic agency or to an ILL centre

Analyzing data from FECYT survey on European library consortia (2006)

Services	Number of consortia /31
Negociation and purchase of electronic licenses	29
Access to electronic content	10
Training	19
Shared collections	8
ILL	9
Shared lists or catalogues	10
Preservation	6

Membership criteria

- Institutions of higher education and/or research
  - For the most : public (or not-for-profit)
  - Rarely : private
- University libraries (or university library directors) with non commercial vocation
- For some consortia, also public libraries, national libraries, or government departments/agencies
- Area :
  - A group of institutions on a specialized basis
  - A region (county, Land…)
  - A country
  - Multinational (more rarely)
- Size : from a dozen to some hundreds members

(French survey : 3/10 have more than a hundred members)

Organisational choices in various countries

- Strong national initiative (Northern Europe, Switzerland)
- National initiative supported at the beginning by EU (Greece, Portugal)
- Regional consortia combined with a strong national initiative (DFG in Germany) or more weak (CARE in Italy, FECYT in Spain)
- Articulation between regional, specialized and national consortia (UK)
- National licensing for some resources, competition for the most
- No choice : competition between consortia…
- A winning solution : cooperating, sharing responsabilities and negotiating in common for a set of ER.

Governance

- Various ways :
  - Council representing the institutions
  - Steering committee associating librarians and academics
  - Coordination group
  - Decisions taken in general meetings

- Couperin :
  - A council with reprensatives of the University presidents Conference, of the Higher Education Schools Conference and of the biggest research institutions

Strategical planning

- Supporting scientific research, e-research and e-learning
- Linking strongly information provision and open access fostering
- Searching adequation betweeen resources supplied and users needs
- Considering as a whole resources, ways of access and information technologies, in a spirit of interoperability and exchange
- Promoting innovation and technological alert
- Trying to loosen economic pressures and to contract cost-efficient deals
- Promoting collaborative organization and methods and searching national or international partnerships
- Serving users communities
- Making ongoing assessments

Operational management

- A team or a library
- A library director, a project leader
- A coordination group (elected or informal)
- The board of the association
- …
- Couperin : an elected professional board of ten members, and two departments : Licensing ; Prospective and Technical
- For the most, annual reports are available on the websites

Means of the consortia

- Financial means : 2 types of consortia
  - Spending an operating budget (< 200 K€ in the sample) (or with costs directly supported by members) ; the members pay directly the ER providers
  - Covering the expenses for ER purchasing (with the contributions of members and in some cases government funding) : between 3 M€ and 16 M€ in the sample
- Human resources
  - Small teams (from 10 to 20 FTE for the biggest, which are in charge of larger missions, from 1 to 6 FTE for the smallest in the sample)
  - But no calculation of FTE from members operating for the consortium

Typology of the resources licensed

- Most of the consortia license many resources
- French survey (10 consortia) :
  - Databases : from 20 to 50 resources
  - Journals : about 30 packages of various size (from 2000 titles to some 30). Often more than 5000 titles accessed
  - E-books : less developed. Often several thousands of titles.

Negotiators

- Generally the permanent team
- In some cases, committed librarians in the member institutions
- More rarely a third party or a trade company
- Couperin : more than 60 negotiators in 6 sections (Science and Technology, Medicine and Life Sciences, Law and Political Sciences, Economy and Business, Human and Social Sciences, « Big Deals ») … and the support of a third party for one big deal renewal in 2010.

The biggest publishers and providers

- French survey (10 consortia) :
- 18 publishers and providers were cited when the consortia were asked to cite the 5 biggest according to the licenses amount :
- 7 learned societies
- 11 corporate publishers

Criteria used for splitting single bills

- Historic amount paid by each member
- Amount divided by the number of insitutions
- Students FTE
- Usage
- A calculation proportional to governement funding
- A combination of criteria
- The publisher's criteria
- In some cases, criteria are within two boundaries :
  - a top level (the amount the biggest members would pay negotiating alone)
  - and a down level (cost for download lower thanPPV for smallest members)

VAT for print and electronic resources

	Printed books	Printed journals	E-books	E-journals	E-databases	Delta for E-books	Delta for E-journals
France	5.5%	2.1%	19;6%	19.6%	19.6%	14.1%	17.5%
Germany	7%	7%	19%	19%	19%	12%	12%
Italy	4%	4%	20%	20%	20%	16%	16%
Spain	4%	4%	16%	16%	16%	12%	12%
Switzerland	2.4%	2.4%	7.6%	7.6%	7.6%	5.2%	5.2%
UK	0%	0%	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%

Difference in VAT rate between electronic and paper products varies from a minimum of 5.2% and a maximum of 17.5%

Multi-year licenses clauses

- Annual renegotiation : rarely (3/10)[1]
- Individual members opting out before the end of the contract : more frequent (7/10)[1]
- Extension to corporate companies : no example
- Consortium license model (4/10) [1]

- Lack of flexibility, no annual adjustments related to budget problems, no adjustment to evidence-based usage

[1] *French survey*

Experimenting innovative models

- Usage based : budget prevision risky
- Move from print + electronic to e-only
- Adjusting costs and contents : reduction of costs of x% cancelling titles representing the same % of downloads
- Conversion of PPV in subscription linked to a certain amount of use
- Jisc e-books observatory
- …
- But at present quite no model adapted to e-only and disconnected from historic paper subscriptions amount

Journals backfiles

- Generally , access since 1995 to the journals content with the current subscriptions
- More and more purchasing backfiles from the first issue, either via permanent access or via local storage
  - …via national license agreements (Germany, Greece, Spain, Switzerland, UK)
  - … for the most, combining central and local budgets
- In France, after a period of non coordinated purchases of backfiles, national licenses experimented in 2011

Access and services

- E-only for the majority of consortia, print + electronic persistent in some cases (differences in VAT ; preservation…)
- Publishing in an open access repository after an embargo period : allowed in 50% of cases[1], but scarcely applied
- Remote access via authentication : generally available
- Consortial ERMs : rarely, at present tested in France by Couperin
- Listing e-resources in national union catalogues : rarely, difficult to maintain links to resources
- Access via the consortium portal : 5/10[1]
- Other : bibliometric studies, open archives, information and training

[1] *French survey*

Print vs electronic archiving

- Local hosting of resources : 3/10[1]
- National policy for print preservation : e.g. Germany, UK
- Regional policies : e.g. Spain
- Electronic content preservation
  - At local level (e.g. Germany, Italy)
  - At cooperative level (LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, Portico)
  - At national level (projected in Switzerland)
- Archiving costs assesment : no example in the sample

[1] *French survey*

Usage

- No complete reports for all the resources licensed (some publishers/providers, especially French-speaking, are not Counter compliant)
- E.g., in France reports avaliable for only 11 packages out of 31 licensed by Couperin
- Bring together publishers sources and local information on logs
- Even with incomplete data, on 6 answers in the sample, 4 consortia report more than 10M articles downloaded in 2009
- % of titles downloaded within a package : strategic indicator for negotiating a resource, insufficiently used by the consortia
- Improving usage assessment is of common interest

Costs, cost savings and ROI

- Incomplete data on of the information expenditure of the consortia members :
  - in the sample, only 5/10 report the figure for 2009, only 6/10 report the ER expenditure in 2009 (between 5M€ and 37 M€)
  - % ER expenditures on consortial license agreements / total information expenditure of the members = ?
- Calculation of savings resulting of consortial agreements : experimented in UK, not applied in other European countries
  - But detailed public information on costs is restrained by many publishers
- ROI is not direct but indirect : saving researchers' time, improving performance in research activities
- Studies to be developed in this field, of strategic interest

The French situation

- Universities, Higher education schools, research institutes : about 70 M€ for ER (including paper linked to electronic access)
- Couperin : > 200 members, in 2008> 2000 contracts (40% via purchasing groups)
- The biggest research insitution (CNRS, INSERM, CEA,…) not in Couperin, but contracting in major purchasing groups
- National strategy in progress :
  - steering committe associating representatives of universities and of research institutions,
  - setting up a unique negotiator for a national licenses programme, element of a Digital Scientific Library (*Bibliothèque scientifique numérique*)

French report recommendations

- To harmonize VAT
- To adopt more flexible license models
- To allow systematically in license contracts articles to be openly available following an acceptable embargo period
- In parallel with the transition towards e-only subscriptions, to draw up a national plan for preserving print versions and for the long-term archiving of electronic content
- To improve usage assessment
- To monitor each year the cost savings resulting from the licence agreements using a certified methodology
- To devise a methodology for assessing the impact of electronic resources sharing on the running costs of libraries and on research activities
- To set up a pluriannual programme for purchasing national licences, supported by funding from the State and from institutions, and perhaps from corporate research as well

Economics in France…

- In France, at present, budget cuts for quite all sectors, excepted for universities and research
- « Great national loan investing for future » : 35 billions € (19 billions € pour universities and research, 4.5 billions € for digital economic sector including 750 M€ for digitizing cultural heritage)
- But pressure on operating budgets will increase, the libraries budgets are stagnant, the annual increase of costs in Big deals bring cancellations of other subscriptions and restriction of books purchase
- A new study launched for optimizing costs of electronic resources in the French universities and research institutions (Report in October 2011)

Some references

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Thank you for your attention !

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