E-Books in the Academic Environment – An Update

Rajiv Nariani

York University Libraries

rajivn@yorku.ca

3rd June 2008

Chemistry Librarian's Workshop

A.D. Allen Chemistry Library (University of Toronto)

E-Books

- E-books comprised of texts published in electronic form as well as physical books converted into digital form, and also books in computer file format, or an electronic file of words and images of monographic character, all of which can be displayed on a desktop, notebook computer, or portable device, including dedicated e-book readers (Rao, 2003)

- YUL has been buying E-books which include reference books, monographs and monograph series, and handbooks

E-Books in the present environment

- Many vendors and evolving technologies

- Issues of Access and Management

- Need for Standard agreements or Model license

E-books in Research Libraries: Issues of Access & Use

(CARL Task Group on E-Books, April 2008)

OCUL E-Book Project

- OCUL-Information Resources, Scholars Portal Operations and Development Committee EBook platform working group, and UTL/Scholars Portal colleagues initiated the [OCUL E-Book project](#) in 2007

- OCUL-IR concluded negotiations in 2008 and has purchased E-book collection from Springer publications

- YUL has the [Canadian Health Research Collection](#) available through Ebrary platform

- YUL also e-books from OSO, RSC, Synthesis Engineering (M&C), Safari, Books24x7

- Eventually all e-book content will be searchable through a common interface – Ebrary platform

- [OCUL Research Products](#)

Issues of Importance to Academic Libraries & Librarians

- E-books:
  - Accessibility/Discoverability
  - Flexibility
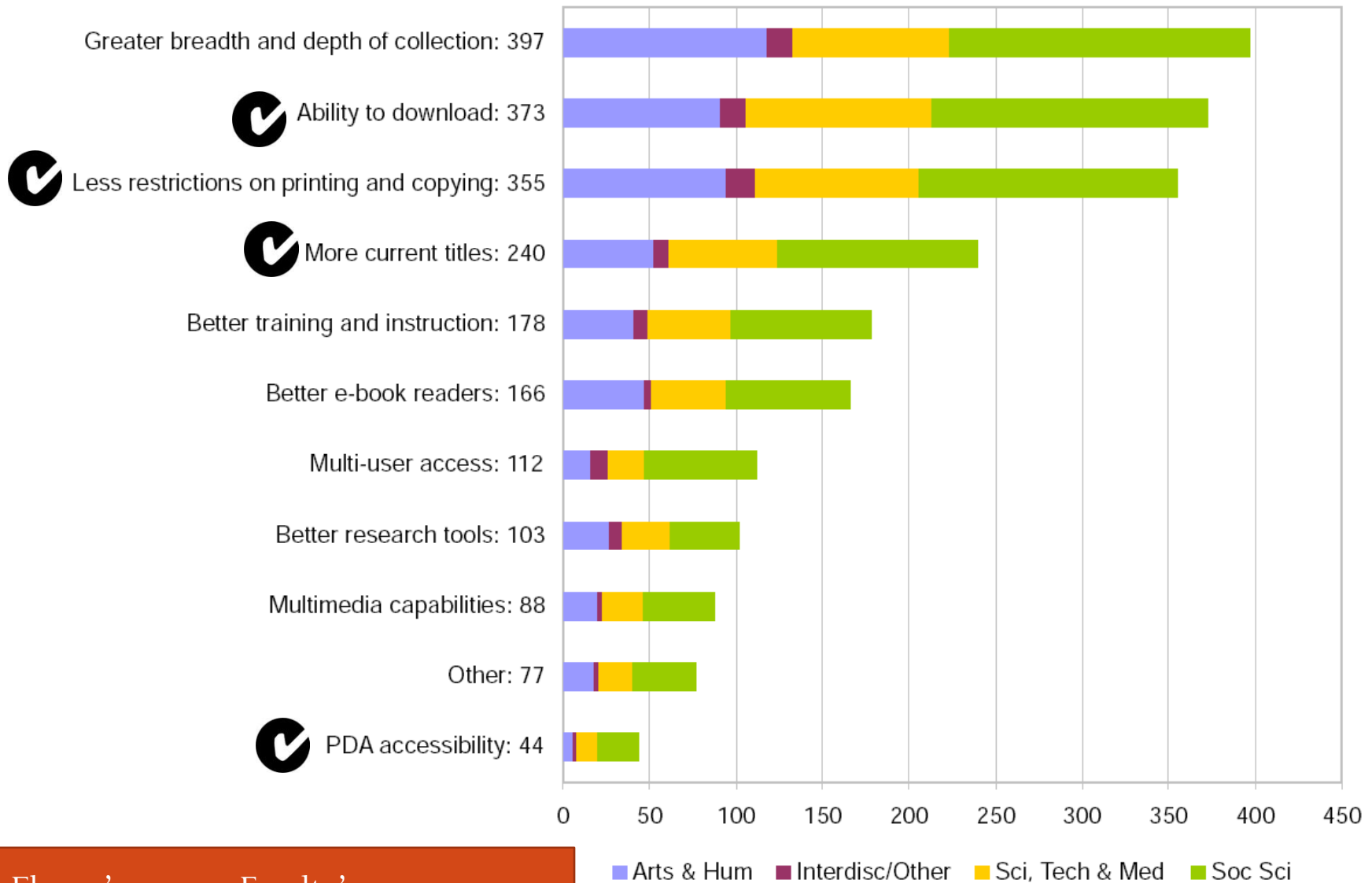 - Choosing E-books
  - Promotion

Functionalities desired in E-books

- Accessibility/Discoverability (seamless access through catalogue, databases and/or federated searching)
- Flexibility (different formats, download to iPod & Cell phones, Export, Create personal library)

"The same is true for student use of library-licensed e-books. If the licensed material is difficult to access or has numerous usage restrictions, students are unlikely to fully utilize the material."

Buczynski, J. (2006)

30. What do you feel would make e-book usage more suitable for use in your area?

Category	Value
Greater breadth and depth of collection	397
Ability to download	373
Less restrictions on printing and copying	355
More current titles	240
Better training and instruction	178
Better e-book readers	166
Multi-user access	112
Better research tools	103
Multimedia capabilities	88
Other	77
PDA accessibility	44

Legend: Arts & Hum, Interdisc/Other, Sci, Tech & Med, Soc Sci

Choosing E-Books in Libraries: Some considerations

- Leasing versus Buying: Discipline specific
- Permanent Archiving
- MARC Record required (no more RSC books at YU)
- Bundled package versus individual titles (Books24x7 *vs.* Safari)
- COUNTER Compliant Statistics
- Single or multiple user: Cost
- Format to order: Print, electronic or both
- Need for a Model License: Standards, Technology Access, Subscription, Statistics, Selection/deselecting, Archiving/preservation, continued access, planned content obsolescence. Use it as a check-list

Promotion of E-books at YUL

- Absence of MARC records
  - Steacie New Books Blog
  - Springer Blogroll
  - Library Reserves: Link to DOI using ezproxy authentication
  - List of subscribed and free e-books is available on Steacie library page. Work-in-progress
  - Subject Research Guide – E-books

References & More Information

- "ebrary's Global eBook Survey." ebrary, Spring 2007. <u>Link</u>

- Buczynski, James. "Faculty Begin to Replace Textbooks with "Freely" Accessible Online Resources." *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, Volume 11, Number 4, 7 March 2006, pp. 169-179.

- Ferguson, Cris. "eBook Rollout." *Against the Grain*, November 2006, pp 1-2. <u>E-Book Rollout</u>

- Owen, V., Tiessen, R., Weir L., DesRoches, R., & Noel, W. (2008) E-Books in Research Libraries: Issues of Access & Use. <u>Link</u>