Lessons Learned from Re-Evaluating Big Deals with Unsub

Scott Chamberlain - @sckottie / @unsub_org
OurResearch
The value of the Big Deal is declining
What’s the Big Deal?

Kenneth Frazier

Presenter

SUMMARY. This paper is based on a presentation given by Ken Frazier in tandem with Loretta Ebert. The term “Big Deal” is used to describe licensing agreements that provide expanded or complete access to the e-journal content of major publishers. The author discusses the liabilities and opportunities created by a library collection development strategy that avoids buying into Big Deals and focuses instead on journal cost-effectiveness. Even the most cost-effective Big Deals are not financially sustainable and can, at best, provide a transition to a more open and affordable scholarly communication system. [Article copies

The Serials Librarian - What's the Big Deal? (2005)
Don’t just blindly cancel
What factors to consider?
Factors to consider

- Open Access
- Interlibrary loan
- Post-termination access
- Cost per use
Factors through time

- **PTA** = Post-termination access
- **OA** = Open Access
- **ILL** = Interlibrary Loan
- **A-la-carte** = Subscriptions
- **Unknown** = Turnaways
Annual cost (26%)

- Savings: $788,291
- Unknown: 49%
- PTA: 13%
- Open access: 35%

$273,536

Access

- 0 +

Subscribed journals

1468 journals, arranged by Cost Per Use (CPU)

- 240 additional journals with CPU > $100
- 31 additional journals with no paywalled usage

Scenario: Untitled scenario
Lessons Learned
1. OA makes a big difference
2. PTA and ILL
3. Institution size correlates with cancellation savings
4. No easy answer to how many titles
5. Saving money on a big deal is a win
6. Tracking journal metadata is not easy
7. Factors we don’t directly account for are still important.
8. Docs, Docs, Docs!
Email:
support@unsub.org
scott@ourresearch.org

Twitter:
@unsub_org