



E-books

A university perspective

Never Stand Still

Andrew Wells
University Librarian

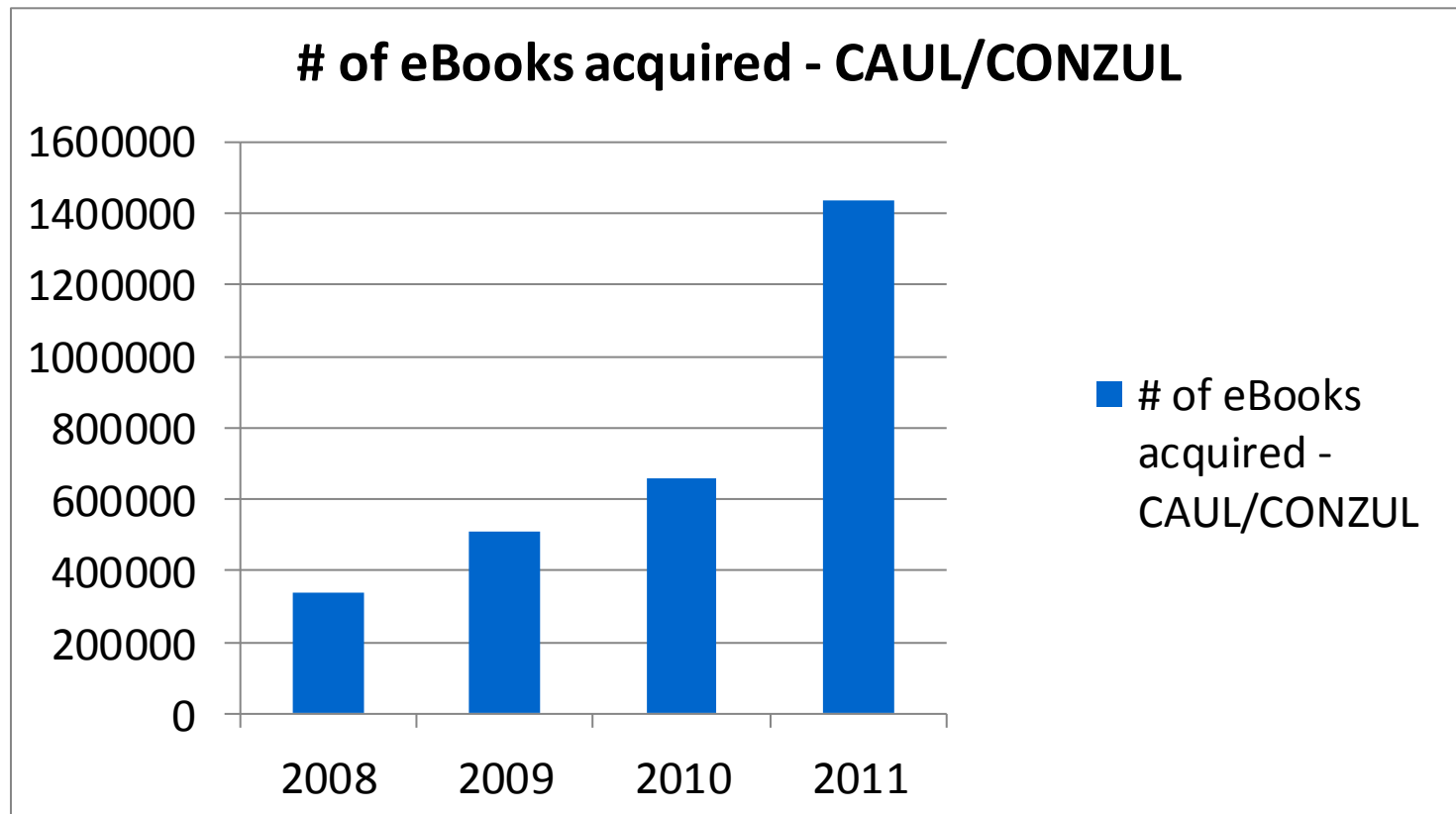
Outline

- Facts and trends
- The good and the not-so-good
- CAUL activities
- Textbooks and e-textbooks

AND A BIG THANK YOU TO GREG ANDERSON

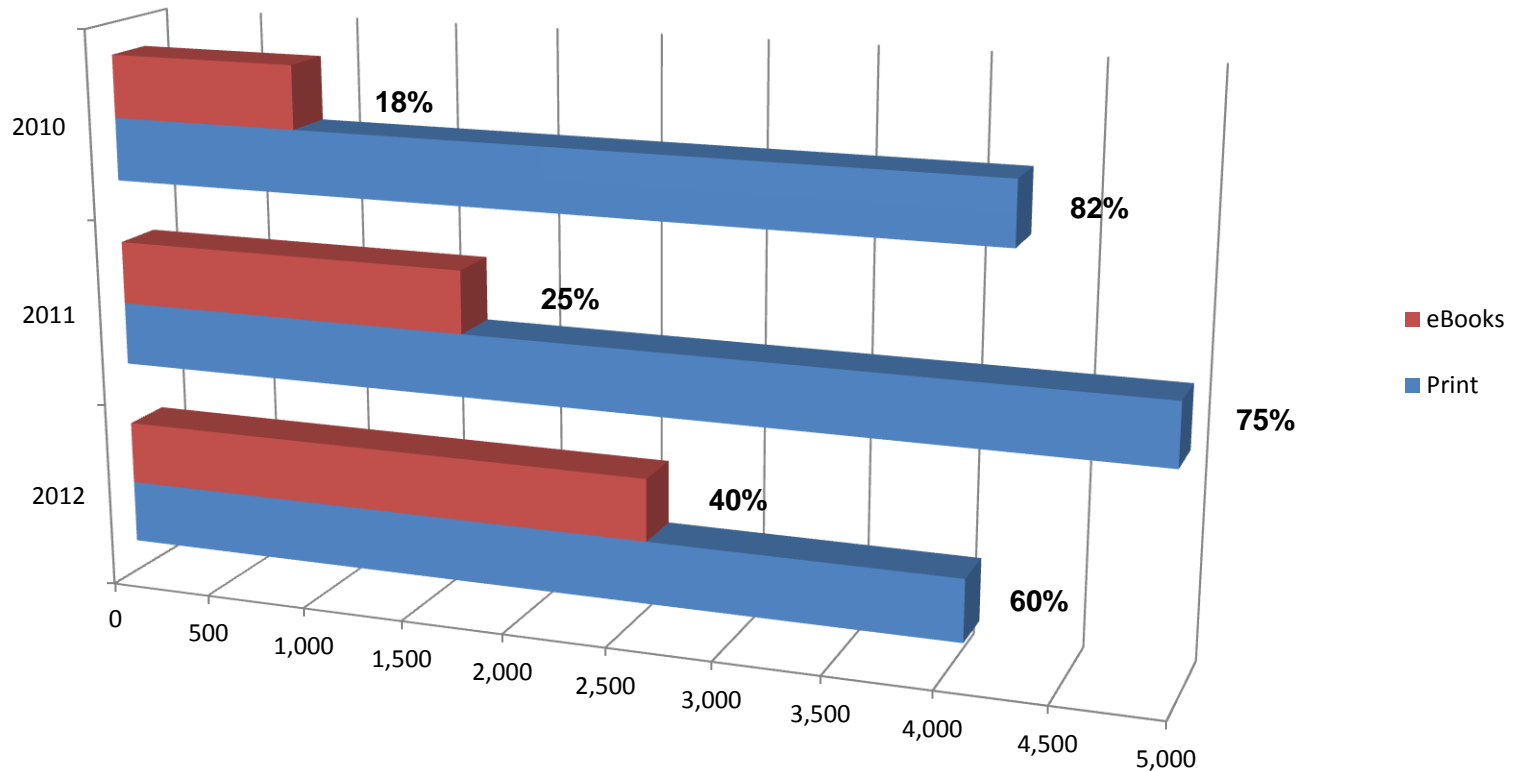


E-books in university libraries

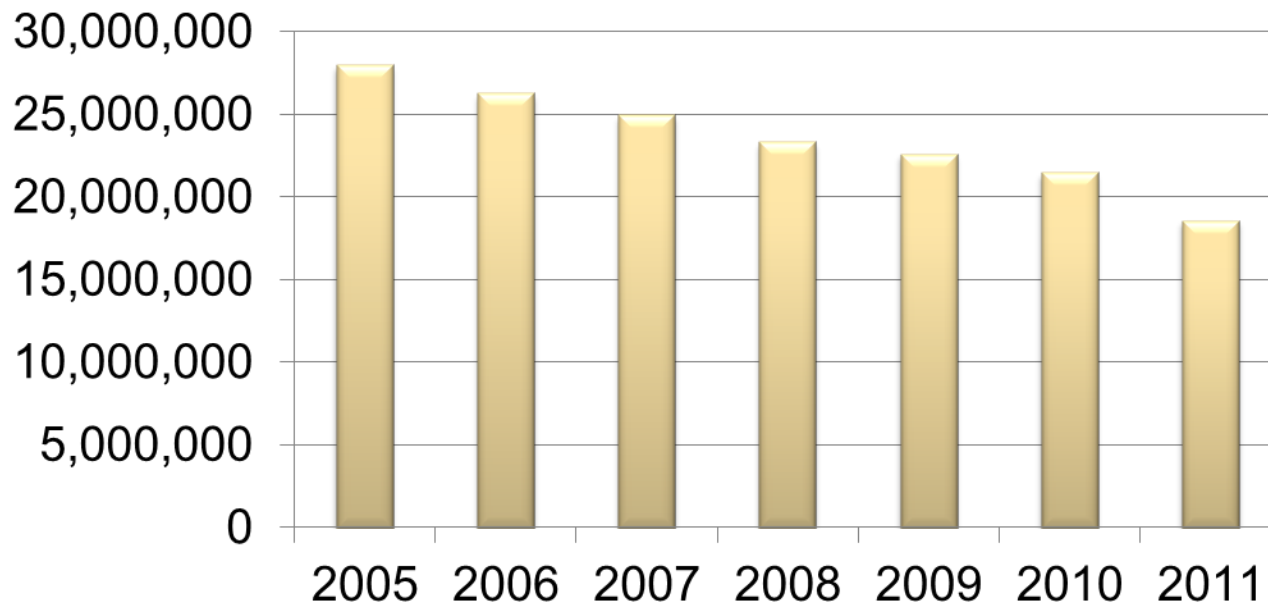


UNSW e-book replacing print acquisition

YTD Total Orders via the Approval Plans



Print loans declining (CAUL/CONZUL)



UNSW print loans

- 2002 saw 1.69 m loans



- 2007 saw 762 k (45% of 2002)



- 2012 saw 438 k (26% of 2002)

Scholarly publishing and university libraries

- Good summary in IFLA lending background paper
- University libraries have little exposure to trade publishers
 - Textbooks an exception
- E-journal experience applicable to e-books
 - Licensing and consortia
 - Technical infrastructure
 - Access regime
 - Established relationships
- Concern that ‘big deal’ features may flow through to e-books
 - Significant amount of content not used (‘digital dust’)
 - Cost per download – applicable to e-books?



The good things

- Good content – frontfile and backfile
 - Helps address space issues
 - Content is higher education level, scholarly and research
- Access to all users 24/7/365
- Cost lower – less processing, less handling
- Gradually catching up with how university libraries manage e-journals
- Ability to link content with online learning tools
- E-book metadata added to discovery applications (Primo, Summon etc)
- Choice in Procurement
 - Subscription
 - Purchase / ownership
 - Demand driven acquisition



Procurement models

- CEIRC (CAUL Electronic Information Resources Committee) involvement
- Aggregators initially dominant
- More direct purchase from publishers and suppliers
- JSTOR a recent entrant
- Long term access usually with direct purchase
- Subscription models work well for reference type collections – having latest edition more important than long term access
- Demand driven acquisition models
 - Attractive because users driving collection development
 - Pricing models not always attractive
- A lot of variety in licenses and procurement models – scholarly e-journal world more ‘predictable’
- CEIRC has model licence clauses



The not-so-good

- All the things that get in the way between the content and the user
 - File formats
 - Downloading restrictions
 - Printing restrictions
- Different access models
 - E-journals now mainly unlimited access, no concurrent user restrictions
- Complex pricing models
- Pricing and price increases all over the place
- Embargos on latest editions



The challenges and opportunities

- Interlibrary loan
 - What does it mean for an e-book
 - Some licences silent about this – apply Copyright Act
 - Some scholarly publishers adopting restrictive approach such as supply within a region
 - E-book acquisition replacing ILL when content is available
- Open access
 - Many Australian university libraries adopting open e-press models
 - Theses online for over a decade now



E-textbooks – a particular challenge

- University libraries supply limited numbers of textbooks
 - No legal obligation to do so (my reading of the law)
 - Provision ranges from small to generous
 - University libraries not the target market – students are
 - Print copies placed in reserve collections – limited borrowing periods
- E-textbooks
 - Can not generally obtain latest edition for mass market textbooks
 - CAUL encouraging publishers to test different models
 - Concurrent user model ‘replicates’ reserve collection model
 - Gillian Hallam report – e-textbook likely to evolve away from PDF as online teaching develops
 - MOOCs

