

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS: PRINT VS. ELECTRONIC



Our library is well on its way to integrating and embracing e-content, with all its concomitant opportunities and challenges. The question is not whether to incorporate e-books and e-content but rather how to do it well. When does the scale tip in favor of electronic over print content? What are the determining factors?

Although they were once reviewed with skepticism, electronic journals have now proven their worth and importance to the academic mission. Their ease of access, discoverability and potential for expanding the collection across subject areas have earned them ready acceptance as an essential resource for faculty teaching and scholarship on campus.

The current transition from print to e-books mirrors the integration of e-journals in many ways. Issues regarding access, usability, image quality and purchasing models are all still of concern, but our faculty and students can already experience the potential for enhancing access. Publisher and subscription packages enable access to books that offer diverse viewpoints and engagement on a wider scale. Ebooks in the library's collections are linked into Moodle by faculty for shared reading and discussion. Moreover, faculty and students can access ebooks remotely while they are studying away, or after hours.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRINT VS. ELECTRONIC COLLECTIONS:

- E-books and e-content are vital components of our collection. The development and integration of e-books into the collection has already contributed to student engagement and fostered new opportunities for learning on campus.
- Librarians are actively working with faculty and students to integrate e-books into the collection, with the continued goal of providing content that reflects and expands upon the unique intellectual and social life of the campus community.
- Key strategies for integrating e-books include focusing on increased access to scholarly and academic resources, and giving users a greater participatory role in building collections that reflect their needs.

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