

18th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply Conference

Global to Local: Diversity and Inclusiveness in Resource Sharing

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Impact of Evidence Based Acquisitions (EBA) on Resource Sharing Activities of Canadian Research Libraries: How EBAs Impact the Ability to Share



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Background

Canadian resource sharing networks are regional.

No strong central organization in Canada advocating for resource sharing.

Canadian academic libraries are rapidly increasing the size of their ebook collections.

Canada's research university libraries have twice as many e-monographs as physical monographs.

56.944.754 e-monographs (all types of ebooks)

26.833.737 physical monographs

Resource sharing activity is declining amongst all university libraries in Canada.

No standard way to share ebooks through resource sharing.

Canadian academic libraries and EBAs

Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA) products

- obtain ongoing access to a publisher's entire annual monograph publication output;

- library can purchase permanent access to specific titles based on usage, while retaining access to all titles while they continue to subscribe to the EBA product.

Canadian academic libraries are heavily utilizing EBAs:

- Efficient for patrons;

- Much higher usage than physical collections;

- No funding for building new space for physical books.

But what are the impacts of EBA on resource sharing?

Methodology

Surveyed university members of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

Two different surveys:

- one for resource sharing librarians

- one for e-resource licensing librarians

25 libraries surveyed

Response rate of 52% for resource sharing librarian survey

Response rate of 60% for e-resource licensing librarian survey



Results – Knowledge and understanding of EBA products

Does your library have EBA products?

Resource sharing librarians	E-resource licensing librarians
40% - YES	100% - YES

80% of libraries signed onto EBA products in 2020 or earlier.

20% had not signed onto EBAs until 2021 or later.

Publisher EBAs included Elsevier, Oxford UP, Emerald, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, Cambridge UP

Impressions of EBA products - Resource Sharing librarians

Do you feel that the implementation of EBA products at your library has enhanced access for your library's patrons?

YES	NO	Not Sure
67%	0%	33%

Do you feel that the implementation of EBA products at your library has resulted in there being a decline in the number of interlibrary loan / resource sharing requests placed by your patrons?

YES	NO	Not Sure
33%	33%	33%

Results - Impact of EBAs on Resource Sharing requests

Are you receiving an increasing number of requests from your institution's patrons for books for which you can only find a digital version (ebook version) held at other libraries?

YES	NO	Not Sure
70%	15%	15%

Are you receiving an increasing number of requests for books for which you only have a digital version (ebook version)?

YES	NO	Not Sure
33%	33%	33%

Are you canceling an increasing number of interlibrary loan / resource sharing requests from external libraries for ebooks because license prohibits resource sharing?

YES	NO	Not Sure
85%	0%	15%

Resource Sharing librarian impressions of EBA impacts correlate with CARL statistics



Impressions of increasing cancellations due to EBA licenses correlates with the general upward trend of the inability of CARL academic libraries to fill resource sharing supplying requests received from external libraries.

Results - Awareness of licensing terms for EBA products

E-resource licensing responses:

Do you have at least one EBA product that allows for resource sharing of entire ebook?

YES	NO	Not Sure
33%	40%	27%

Do you try to ensure that your EBA licenses allow for at least some level of resource sharing?

YES	NO	Not Sure
75%	19%	6%

Resource Sharing responses:

Does your library's e-resource licensing team try to ensure that EBA licenses allow for at least some level of resource sharing?

YES	NO	Not Sure
54%	23%	23%

Does your library's e-licensing team consult with the Resource Sharing department about ebook licenses?

YES	NO	Not Sure
23%	70%	7%

Results - Future plans regarding EBAs and digital monographs

Approximately what percent of new monographs in your library's collection are in digital format?

41-60% are digital	61-80% are digital	61-80% are digital	Unsure
7%	47%	34%	13%



Is your library licensing more ebooks each year than in the previous year?

YES	NO	Not Sure
65%	7%	28%

Does your library plan on reducing the size of the physical collection in your library?

YES	NO	Not Sure
86%	7%	7%

Results discussion

Over 80% of respondents state that their library has plans to reduce the number of physical items in their collections through direct removal, removal to storage, or a combination of both.

Direct removal only	Storage facility only	Direct removal + storage
27%	27%	33%

Canadian Collective Print Strategy Working Group - "future of monographs collection is increasingly digital."

According to survey responses, CARL libraries see EBA products as a cost-effective way to collect monographs.

EBAs are a way to **“expand available titles for our students and faculty to access them without expending the huge costs for ownership.”**

Results discussion

BUT.....

It is evident from the Survey that little consideration is given to the resource sharing implications of the large scale adoption of EBA and other digital monograph plans.

Resource sharing librarians are certain that they are canceling resource sharing requests more frequently due to e-book licensing terms.

Only 33% of libraries were certain that at least one EBA product came with entire e-book resource sharing provisions.

No e-resource licensing librarian commented positively about the chances of getting widespread entire e-book resource sharing provisions in EBA licenses.

Results discussion

Survey responses show a discrepancy between e-resource licensing area and resource sharing area regarding:

Knowledge of EBA products.

Commitment to ensuring e-book licenses allow for resource sharing.

Support for the importance of resource sharing in a digital monograph world.

The divergence in answers between e-licensing area and resource sharing areas indicate a lack of consultation between resource sharing and collection management units in CARL libraries regarding impacts of EBAs on resource sharing.



Future research areas

Impact on smaller libraries' access to material due to EBA adoption by large libraries.

Attitudes of collections management librarians concerning their perceived importance of resource sharing.

Technical solutions to licensing restrictions on e-book lending. For example, allowing access to e-book for an external user without making a copy of the e-book.



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