

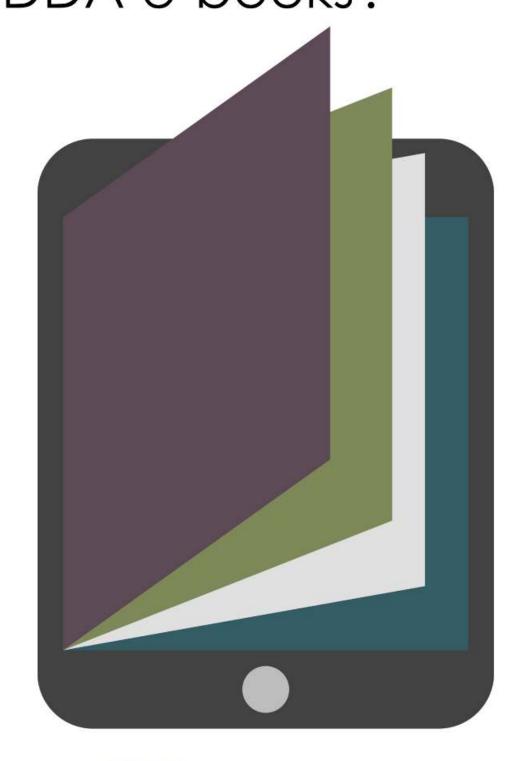
## Buy Wisdom or Borrow It?

BOULDER LABS

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For a small government library, perpetual access, access-to-own, or short-term loans for DDA e-books?



## **Problem Statement**

The e-book platform that the Boulder Labs Library (BLL), a federal research library, uses provides multiple purchase models for books selected through demand-driven acquisition (DDA), including:

- Perpetual access (PA) permanent access
- Short-term loan (STL) few days' access only (in this case, 7 days)
- Access-to-own (ATO) STL funds may be applied towards a PA purchase

Based on BLL customer usage data from 2013-2018 of 283 e-books purchased using the PA model based on DDA use, would STL or ATO models better meet the needs of the library's customers and its budget?

## Methodology

- Combine BR1 and BR2 COUNTER usage reports by title for the time period since DDA acquisitions began
- 2. Bin usage by number of months since purchase, retaining usage data for the months of and after purchase only
- Calculate STL and ATO cost and availability based on publication and usage dates
- Assume that the usage in each month is within the time period covered by STL/ATO so that there will be only 1 per month

## **Findings**

Over half, 57% (162), of the library's DDA ebooks had usage only in the month of purchase. Only 10% (29) had usage in more than 3 months.



Usage frequency of purchased e-books

Three purchasing scenarios were examined and compared:

- 1. STL for 3 months' usage (or ATO, if STL not available) then PA purchase
- 2. ATO up to 3 months' usage, converting to PA when purchase price exceeded (or immediate PA if ATO not available)
- 3. Immediate PA purchase of all e-books

|             | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 | Scenario 3 |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| STL costs   | \$9,800    |            |            |
| ATO costs   | \$12,100   | \$22,200   |            |
| PA costs    | \$4,900    | \$7,500    | \$45,900   |
| Total costs | \$26,800   | \$29,700   | \$45,900   |

The library could have saved over \$19,000 from 2013-2018 by using STL for the first 3 months' uses then PA purchasing those e-books with additional usage.