



Buy Wisdom or Borrow It?

Stacy Bruss
NOAA/OAR/ESRL/DO
325 Broadway, Boulder, CO ❖ stacy.bruss@noaa.gov



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

1. 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
3. Calculate STL and ATO cost and availability based on publication and usage dates
4. 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 e-books 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.