

All Selector Meeting

Tuesday April 14, 2020

A [recording of the meeting](#) is available.

Welcome: Kim

Thank you for taking the time to be here today; we really appreciate that. We've brought you together so we update you on how changes in the world are affecting collection decisions. We're going to say things that are complete 180s to what we said a month ago, and even a week ago. Things are changing quickly, and the decisions are similarly having to be made much more quickly than usual and not necessarily according to the decision making processes we might normally use. None of this is easy, for any of us, and from so many different perspectives. We ask for your patience and understanding as we go through all of these updates and decisions, and promise to give you all similar patience and understanding as we address all of your questions.

-it was announced that the meeting was being recorded, and that a link to that recording and the notes would be posted and linked on the Selector's Toolkit

COVID collections update and Q/A (Courtney)

- Recognition and appreciation was expressed for the sub group working on collections issues (Deborah, Courtney, Phoebe, Monica, Ece, Shika, Nina, and Katie)

Textbooks / reserves

- Out of the 1100 print books on reserve for spring, we have ebook access for about half the titles via publisher and vendor offers, Internet Archive & Hathitrust, and buying ebook copies. In addition to books we already had ebook copies for in the catalog, we have bought copies when available to us.
- The remainder of the reserve titles don't have ebook copies available to purchase and we haven't yet found a publisher offer for them.
- Phoebe & Monica contacted liaisons with emails for faculty with textbooks that are newly available via the VitalSource platform.
- We plan to make the reserves list available soon so that liaisons can see what ebooks have been identified.

- e. If you have textbook questions or want help checking a title, feel free to contact Monica and Phoebe. If any faculty have questions about putting items on reserve for upcoming terms (or reserves in general) please have them email lib-res@mit.edu and Monica will answer.
- 2. HathiTrust
 - a. Temporarily making available digital copies (monographs and serials) of in-copyright material that we have a print copy of, the overlap is ~35%. Access is on and records will be loaded to Barton soon.
- CC will be adding this to the LibGuide soon
- Ece has been shepherding this and her work is very much appreciated!
- 3. LibGuide
 - a. Items that replace our print collections are a priority for the libguide. We focused heavily on the textbook, reserve items, ebook collection offers available. For presentation on the libguide, we ended up focusing on the two main vendors (Red Shelf and Vital Source) that supply rental textbook as opposed to the many different textbook publisher offers.
 - b. Mostly we have been focusing on turning on offers that replace our print collections.
 - c. There are 2 categories of access; access that was expanded for the MIT community via proper authentication and access that is free to all. We are only adding records to Barton for offers that are just for the MIT community AND can be batch loaded. A&A and DLS are working through those as fast as they can. (eg HathiTrust versus Internet Archive)
 - There is a big queue for these records to be added to Barton
 - Internet Archive has turned everything on
 - HathiTrust has turn on things just for MIT community

More questions? Email us at covidcollections-lib@mit.edu

JM- For Hathi Trust, there is a one to one availability, is there a loan period for it?

ET - The loan period is only for one hour. If there is no one on the waitlist then this period can be extended.

YL - Will we have an easy way to remove accesses like HathiTrust ones from Barton after the pandemic?

KM- Yes. All records we batch load have an identifier in them, so we can easily pull them back out as needed

MS - I assume in HathiTrust you can't save PDFs...

ET- You can download one page at a time. You can not download the whole book.

KZ - There is also a "raise hand" button through zoom, which will bump people up to the top of the participants list

EB- click on Participants and it will show the options to Raise Hand, go slower, faster, etc.

PA - click participants, which brings up list of participants and also raise hand etc buttons

Autoship / approval plans through the end of this fiscal year (Kim)

Main message: Print approval plan via GOBI will not be restarted during this fiscal year; instead, we will be shifting those funds to an Access to Own (ATO) ebook program via ProQuest.

How our autoship / approval plans worked through 3/13/2020:

- Our approval plans with GOBI Library Services are autoship plans; we filled out a profile of what we want, and GOBI Library Services shipped print books to us that fit those profiles. You may be familiar with these as we did a review of these plans last year and made a number of adjustments. We fund these plans centrally; these plans are not supported with any money from the subject level funds.
- Deborah has pulled numbers (show the spreadsheet). We have \$83K left collectively in these six plans; we estimate GOBI would have shipped us 1444 books before the end of this fiscal year. We are redirecting the \$83K we have left collectively in these six approval plans : how many books will we not be receiving as a result of this change (1400)? How much money are we redirecting (\$83K left in approval plan budgets) these are centralized, approval plan auto ship funds we are not taking money from subject level funds to support these plans.

March 13 - April 13, 2020:

- Holding pattern as we figured out our new world. We are checking with GOBI Library Services later this afternoon on the exact status of that holding pattern. Early on, they told us “We do have the option to pack and hold boxes, meaning we would generate invoices on things but not ship them.” So we do not think they are packing boxes – but we don’t know if they are doing anything else. We're going to clarify whether they have processed any books on these approval plans that they couldn't undo (e.g., if they have physically marked books for MIT).
 - We are talking to Gobi at 4pm
 - Will ask if they have physically marked any books for us, we will honor and take those

April 13 - end of FY2020 (Deborah)

- We are redirecting the \$83K left in our budget for approval plans to a new ebooks plan: an Access to Own (ATO) Program via ProQuest Changing to an ebooks "Access to Own" model
- Making this switch is one way to support equitable access to collections.
- Deborah will explain the details of how this program works.

Proquest was one of the first vendors I reached out to when our classes went online. I knew that access to our book collection would be an immediate problem. Within about a week they turned on access to their subscription collection of 18,000+ titles.

As part of the COVID response team I asked Shikha to start a discussion with PQ to explore the Access to Own and Demand Driven Acquisition programs that they offered. As the weeks progressed it became more clear that we would not be able to return to print acquisition as quickly as we expected, and not in enough time to finish this fiscal year.

We (CDL leaders) met with Chris Bourg to discuss how to move forward. She let us know that there is a potential for continued disruption into the fall semester, and that we should focus on acquisition of econtent in order to provide access to collections equitably for students and faculty that are local and remote.

I did consider the option of switching our current approval plan to an ebook approval plan, and I'll provide a comparison to help explain why we're moving forward with ATO instead of Gobi ebook approval plan.

Google slide with details [on the Access-to-Own program](#).

DL's slide, How does the content set compare to our print approval plan

- Shikha has really helped out a lot with this
- Have tried to set up a profile similar to what our autoship approval plan currently look like
- Some publishers that we now receive in our autoship print approval plan do not participate in

the ATO plan

List of those publisher will be shared with selectors

- ATO – allows us to access much wider range of title, only pay for what we use
- The current pool that we're working on includes about 12,000 books

Graph of proportional distribution

- Rotch is smaller
- Music is smaller, but these are specialized
- We will talk to them about if we can tweak the profile to smooth that out

What does it cost?

-Front List – with first use we pay 55% of ebook list price, second use we pay an additional 55% and then we own the title

- Back List – 35%... (see slide)

How would a selector know whether to purchase a book outside of the ATO(see slide)

-Check catalog to see if we already have access to the title; Acquisitions staff checks for duplicates at the time of order

(Chat) Ye Li: How fast will Gobi slips reflect our titles acquired through the ProQuest Access-to-Own program?

Answer: (not addressed during meeting) Gobi slips will not reflect ATO. Gobi slips currently do not reflect many ebook titles that are acquired directly.

DL – we can have a meeting to talk more about this in details, and ask questions

(Chat) ET - when we get a book what format does PQ make the content (text, images, models, associated data, etc) available, do we know? text data mining group knows that we have had issues with PQ OCR quality etc.

Answer: (not addressed during meeting) Most Proquest Ebook Central books are available as ePub and PDF. These are industry standard formats. TDM is currently not available for the PQ Ebooks Central platform. We already have access to 2000 PQ Ebook Central books. We have not experienced a problem with poor quality text or images. It is true that if a CD-ROM was included with the original print book that data is not included with the ebook.

FY21 and beyond (Kim)

- So what happens when FY2020 is over?
- We plan to continue in this way until our on campus classes and research fully resume. Even if the Libraries staff are back on campus and can start receiving print shipments, we still need to be sure our collections are fully accessible to our community, who may not yet be back on campus
- Potential disruptions for fall semester (as Chris mentioned in community checkin last week) means we need to continue to think about how to provide equitable access to collections.

Slip and firm order selection through the end of this fiscal year (FY closes in Aleph at start of June) (Kim then Deborah)

Main question: How are people going to spend out their remaining \$190K in subject funds this year (primarily M funds)?

We are focusing our efforts on purchasing ebooks, again to provide equitable access to our collections at this time.

Print (Kim)

- **We are asking you not to select any more print**, in GOBI or anywhere else. We know that we told you to continue to select print books (you are remembering correctly!). We are changing our instructions now, and we understand this is a huge enormous change.
- The print you have already selected in GOBI will stay in your "cart" and can / will eventually be purchased (again, when on campus classes and research resume, and staff are on site to receive the books). However, we will not expend the funds to purchase them in this fiscal year, so it will not help you spend out your FY2020 funds.

(Chat) NDM- OK then I have another question: I'm assuming that this arrangement will last till ALL classes are back on campus. Yes? (Pres. Reif's email made it clear that they'd likely be phasing things in by stages.)How about ebook firm orders? Also cease & desist or what?

(Chat) MS - For things that we have ordered recently in print format (e-select and gobi), should we redo those or let them stand?

KM - We can tell you what it is there. And you can talk with acquisitions if you want to switch them to electronic, or order it later

- **What's in your carts?** Not very much! Here's a list from Martina, as of Monday 4/13/2020. There has been very little ordering since 3/13; much of what you see below is pre-3/13, when Julia (who normally completes these orders) was on vacation, and given what that week was like we decided not to submit these orders.
 - Humanities: 96 (85 shelf-ready (SR), 11 not SR)
 - Rotch: 23 (22 SR, 1 not SR)
 - Barker: 10
 - Science: 11
 - Dewey: 1
 - Music: 4
 - Total: 145
- **Switch your selection to electronic?** We (and by that I mean Martina) can send you a list of the selections currently in your carts (because as selectors, you cannot delete or revise once you have submitted your selections to Acquisitions, and it's not clear to ACQ that you can even see what you have submitted). You can review that list and let us know which things to switch to electronic (and also which to keep as print and which to remove).

(Chat) PA - my question is should we still be trying to spend down our mono funds?

DL - Yes!

(Chat) - KAS - What about art print books that don't have any or adequate ebook content?

DL- If folks are running into problems they should reach out to their Collection Strategist to talk things through. For the Humanities this is me at the moment.

Ebooks (Deborah)

- Options to expend subject level funds this fiscal year:
 - Ebooks access-to-own
 - Ebooks via Gobi slip/firm order

We will send out a google survey after the meeting to get information from selectors about how they want to proceed with spending out subject level funds.

- A reminder that the deadline for new orders for electronic content (including ebook collections) was end of March. Any orders placed now are unlikely to be completed within this fiscal year.

Kim explains why this deadline is when it is, and why we need to keep it there. Also acknowledge that this is hard: this kind of purchase really could help you spend out your funds, but there are licensing and access model challenges that could make this impossible.

(Chat) SS - will the non-used funds be rolled over to the new year?

Answer: No, any free balance from subject level funds will not be reallocated to subject level funds in the new fiscal year. We will continue to follow regular practices regarding carrying forward free balances. Endowed funds will carry forward at the restriction level.

(In case this comes up: What if you can't spend down your M funds? Any free balance in M funds at the end of the fiscal year will be carried forward into a central carry forward fund. They will not be reallocated to subject level funds. This is our normal process.)

KM- considerations of licensing, acquisitions, and access models. Example - CUP, MUSE, friendly publisher, license in place, that should be ok. Product not used to being used for academic/educational purposes, new license, and complicated access model, that's probably not going to happen right now.

Q&A time (Courtney)

- We were hoping to have discussion time using zoom break out meetings, but we have run out of time. So we are taking questions now and we also encourage you to discuss in your CoP and communicate with your Collections Strategists.
- We are taking questions now. Raise your hand and we will go in order. You can also use chat.

(Chat) KZ - We are expediting license review for things needed for covid-related support! But a lot of it is in the vendor's control

(Chat) KAS- Should we still be ordering print books for the collection? Some items for our communities are not available in e versions?

DL - No. We can not receive and pay for print books. Selectors that support collections that do not have good ebook options should discuss directly with a Collection Strategist.

- Suggestion that DL meet with Humanities CoP, and with Nina (Music) to discuss the specific challenges this is going to create for these disciplines.

(Chat) - MS- could we get a number of how much we have left?

KM- Yes

DL - I can show you how to get that information

(Chat) YL - Are we expecting a downturn on the allocation for E funds in FY21? Do we know at this time?

KM - The 3 year smoothing technique that MIT did in 2008 seems like it won't work this time. This financial crisis is different in many ways, and they are still working on their assessment. They have not yet issued us a new budget letter as they are still working on this, and as soon as we have more information we will be sharing that with you.

(Chat) ET - do we expect Borrow Direct to get back on track sooner than our own AA processing

KM- Not sure yet. Issues of when folks are going to physically present on campuses to start Borrow Direct up again, and concern about the health risks that might impose on them.

CS - will the ATO will have an influence on a preferred ebook platform? We aren't sure if Proquest or EBSCO has a better user experience

- We don't have a preferred ebook platform. We have left it to the selectors to go with works for their communities.

(Chat) MS - I know there's no way around this, but I'm guessing that publishers of a lot of fiction, poetry, and drama are not going to be a part of the ebook program. I guess we'll have to live with that loss until this is all over. But it'll be quite a loss.

- Acknowledgement that this is going to leave a COVID-19 scar on these collections
- DL - we will share out the list that is being used to build the ATO platform so folks can take a look and contribute to do what we can to mitigate this

(Chat) NDM - I wouldn't necessarily characterize this material as "popular" - think of it as "primary sources" rather than "scholarly research".

(Chat) MS - Oh, I would say these are current needs. Just not needs we can fill now

(Chat) KAS - Seems like you may need to come to a A and H meeting Deborah since it looks like this is a big hit to us.

KM- There are still something that we can do. Mentioned example of the Japanese content that a process has recently been worked out for MS. If there are things we can do we are open to trying!

(Chat) CS - should we also aim to hit zero in our M funds as opposed to over encumbering this year?

DL - hitting zero would be better than over encumbering!

[Zoom chat transcript](#)