ACRL/Choice Webcast
Data-Driven Collection Development: The Approval Plan in Today's Academic
Library
May 2, 2019
Text for presentation

UNCG overview

Thank you, Ashley. Hello. I'm Christine Fischer // UNC Greensboro is one of 17
institutions in the University of North Carolina System, and our fall 2018 campus
enrollment was just over 20,000 students. The University Libraries are the main
library – Jackson Library – and the Harold Schiffman Music Library. We have 95
faculty and staff.

Our collections include 1M print titles, 1.2M ebook titles; and about 287,000
digital/electronic media titles. The collections budget this year is 3.7M dollars.

We are a member of ASERL, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries.

History of UNCG UL approval plan

UNCG libraries initiated our university press approval plan in 1989 with our
primary book vendor, YBP, now called GOBI. In the early 1990's we added trade
publishers to the plan. The plan evolved over the years until in 2014 we activated
our Demand Driven Acquisitions plan, starting with EBL titles.

At the start of our DDA plan, we had the first-use-of-a-title trigger a short-term
loan. The second use triggered the purchase. We reviewed our plan activity and
concluded that we would eliminate the short-term loan step in the process and
simply trigger a **purchase** on the first use. That change was implemented in
January of 2017.

We've had continuous use of GOBI notifications for faculty, initially with print
slips years ago and then moving to fully electronic notifications, which are actively
used by our faculty.

Just to give a sense of our expenditures, during fiscal year 2017-2018, we spent
$32,500 on approvals and $37,000 on DDA purchases.

Top benefits *1* [CF starts]

As we all know, title-by-title selection of resources for our collections is not sustainable. An approval plan offers the opportunity to develop a profile that suits the school's curriculum and research needs. The library knows it will automatically receive the books and ebooks that match the profile. The approval plan benefits faculty, because they can rely on the plan to supply the books, or to supply notifications that they can make recommendations from, to ensure that the library acquires the needed resources. Library Liaisons and subject librarians are more and more focusing their work on instruction, consultations, direct work with faculty, and outreach; they are spending less time on collection development, so the approval plan save them time. We appreciate that our DDA plan is supplemented by other aspects of the approval plan, so books and ebooks are purchased ~ or made available through notifications ~ when a title isn't available as DDA.

Supports acquisition *2* [CF follows Simona]

Our pool of DDA records in our knowledge base is 7,800 titles. From fiscal year 2013-2014 when we started our Demand Driven Acquisitions plan through April 2019, we have purchased 890 ebooks via DDA. ProQuest Ebook Central is our preferred aggregator, and we have a priority set so we will get non-linear lending usage if it is available, if not – then 3-users or finally 1-user. If Ebook Central doesn't offer a title by DDA, GOBI will then check to see if an EBSCO ebook with 1-user option is available. If no DDA title option is available, we go to the approval plan for either print copies or notifications. In the past twelve months, we purchased eleven hundred approval titles, 345 DDA titles, and twenty-five hundred firm orders through GOBI Library Solutions.

We also purchase titles on publisher-direct platforms.

Most helpful *1* [CF starts]

As for the approval profile itself, we've structured it with the uppermost parameters being based on LC Classes and our preferred publishers. From there we set a price ceiling for the titles that varies depending on LC Class and whether

the title is print or electronic. As I mentioned earlier, we have strong use of notifications by faculty, and our Library Liaisons are active in working with new faculty to participate. The approval plan and DDA plan are integrated well. We also like that GOBI can accommodate additional needs. For instance, we know that we will receive the National Book Award winners and several other award-winning books, in case we hadn't already added them to our collection before they were honored and recognized.

Future *2* [CF follows Simona]

As Simona does at Texas A&M, we at UNC Greensboro are routinely adjusting our approval plan to meet current needs and to address changes, such as when a new program or new department is created. We just want to be sure that faculty have the titles they need – as much as that is possible. We use GOBI reports on expenditures and approval activity to help inform our decisions on revisions to the approval plan, as well.