

Collecting eBooks: What Next?

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Abstract:

The paper begins by analysing the experience of the recent SUPC national tender for e-books. Lessons are drawn on pricing models, availability and the unresponsive nature of publishers. User behaviour of the new generation of 'digital natives' is examined, as is the likely impact of the widespread implementation of virtual learning environments and changing styles of learning and teaching. A future is predicted in which the primary requirement is for content in the electronic medium, whatever its printed analogue (monograph, journal etc.), whatever its business model (subscription, purchase, open access etc.). The consequence of this view is that if monographs are not available electronically they will not be bought or used.