
THE EVOLUTION OF PRINT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: A DECADE OF CHANGE

Rhonda Glazier
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
rglazier@uccs.edu



Agenda

What I said in 2014

What is the same

Trends today impacting
print books in libraries

Print landscape in 2014

Purpose of print collection:

Role/scope of print collection impacts selection and budget

Print collections are a smaller percentage of the budget

- Requires library to redefine purpose of print collection
- Libraries need to determine the most effective use of limited budget

E-Book Landscape in 2014

Need to take time
to define role/scope
of e-book collection

- Individual title purchases
- PDA or DDA collections
- Perpetual access vs. leasing of titles

Role of strategic
plan and e-books

- Are e-books reflected?
- Collection?

Leasing vs. perpetual access 2014 perspective

How to
decide:

- How does the titles fit into the overall collection
- Are the materials core to the library's mission?
- What happens if you lose access to a title?
 - Does it matter?
- How important is ownership?

What to consider



When determining print vs. e-book

- Curriculum
- Class delivery method
- Faculty preference
- Publishing trends
- Research support
- Needs of your “community”
- **BUDGET**

What is the same

Print budget continues to decrease

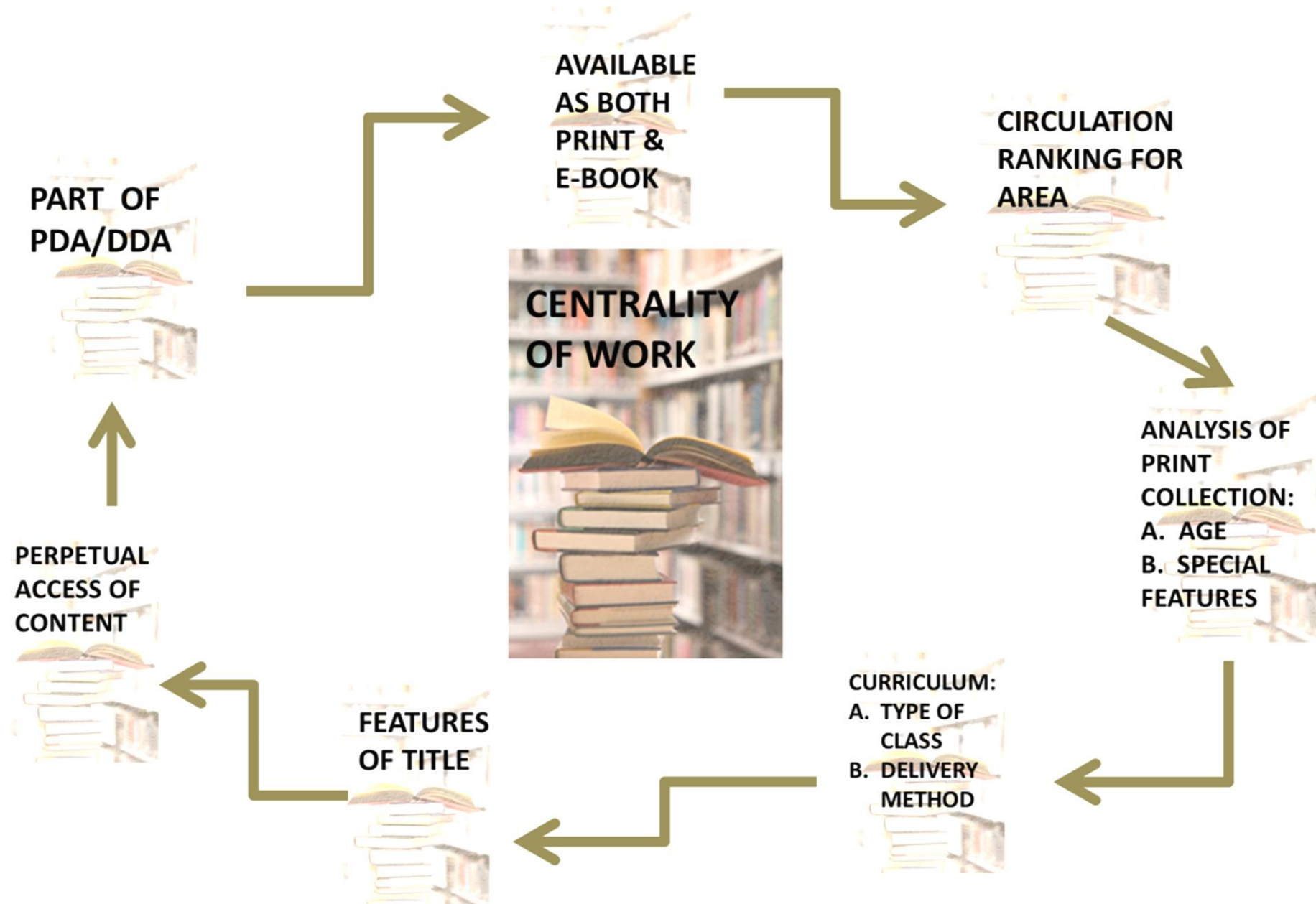
E-book expenditures continue to grow

Both collections are still viewed separately

Both formats have different purposes

Create Matrix for Access

- Determine what you SHOULD buy in print
 - Criteria for print
 - Publishing percentage in print
 - Does the publisher offer new titles in e-book in a method that you can purchase?
 - Analysis of circulation of print materials
 - What percentage of your print collection circulates in each area.
 - Why?
 - Triangulate with information gathered from observation or informal data gathering
 - Cost.
 - Does it make sense relative to cost to purchase this title in print?
 - More expensive the title, more analysis needs to be done in terms of determining format.
 - Timeliness of material
 - How long will it stay in date?
 - How long would you normally keep the title?
 - Seminal work
 - Centrality of title to curriculum



Example: How print has changed at UCCS



FY14 – 25% of the collection budget spent on print



Funds allocated by a formula



Single title e-book titles were very seldom purchased



Had a small Baker & Taylor lease program for bestselling fiction

Example: How print has changed at UCCS



FY25 – 7.3% of collection budget spent on print



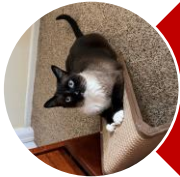
Funds are allocated by broad areas



Most selectors are ordering single title e-books with print money



Added collections of graphic novels, zines, and games between FY16 and FY24



Increased Baker & Taylor lease program to include nonfiction

Trends Today

Pandemic accelerated the move to e-books

An orange rectangular box with rounded corners. A light orange arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

Large stacks of books no longer seen as an asset

A grey rectangular box with rounded corners. A light grey arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

Libraries as a gathering place

A yellow rectangular box with rounded corners. A light yellow arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

Perpetual access to e-books in trouble?

A blue rectangular box with rounded corners. A light blue arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the next box.

Budget

A green rectangular box with rounded corners. A light green arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner.

Impact of the pandemic

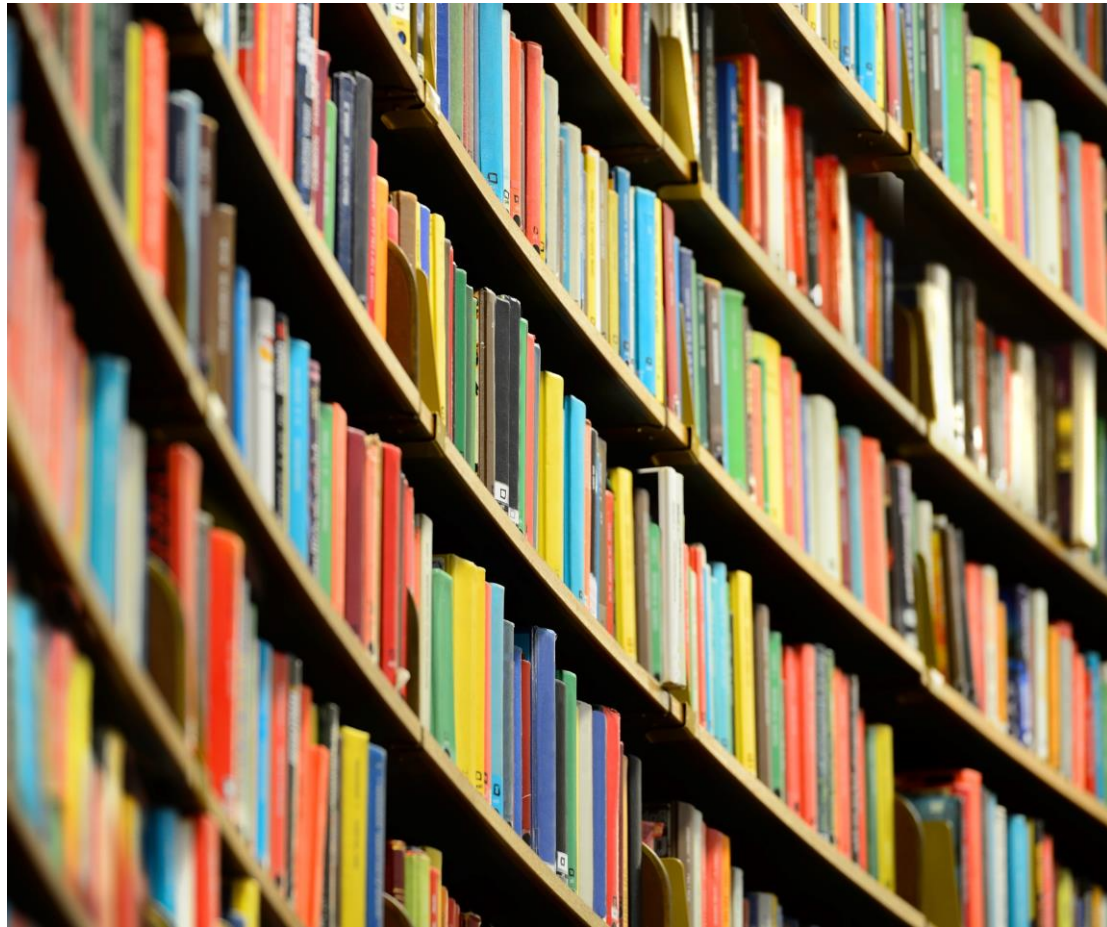
Accelerated many libraries to purchase more e-books

Increased interest in streaming videos

Redefined library services and instant access to information

Diminished the library as place

Large stacks of books no longer seen as an asset



- Growing assumption that all information can be found online
- Some administrators see stacks of books as wasted space
- Circulation of print materials down since the pandemic
- Shift in collection budget to online impacted print purchasing

Print Books are Still Important



Libraries as a gathering place

- Collaboration spaces
 - Third place evolution
 - Coffee shop
 - Different types of study/collaboration seating
- Recreational materials more prominent
 - Games
 - Graphic novels
 - Zines



Perpetual access to e-books in trouble?

- Recent announcement from Clarivate/Proquest
 - Will other vendors follow?
 - Impact on DDA/EBA Programs
 - Impact on role of print books



Budget

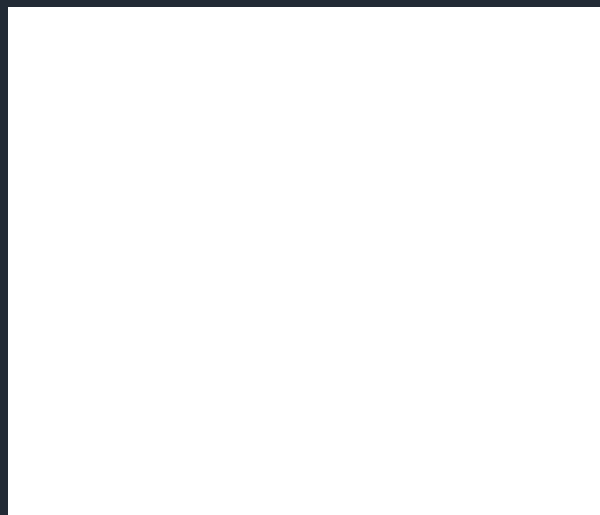
- Lack of perpetual access will impact budgets
- Current budget challenges



What is happening at your library?



Thank you



Rhonda Glazier
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Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge - May 20,
2025