ENRICHING ACCESS TO E-RESOURCES

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS
• Introduction
• Academic Libraries & e-Resources
• Resource sharing in electronic or digital environment
• Trends versus Demand
• Budget Allocation
• Collection versus services
• Competencies
• Uncertainty
INTRODUCTION

• Universiti Malaysia Perlis implements distributed campus systems

• Our administrative offices, academic centres, hostels, lab facilities, lecture halls, etc. are located at least 30 locations accross Perlis.
E-RESOURCES AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Institutional members

20 IPTA

E-resources

More than 55 IPTS

Public members

Dedicated Consortium

Collaborative content development
E-RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT @ ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

1980-1990s
Online Public Access Catalog
Web based Online Public Access Catalog

1990s
Internet via Telnet
Access to selected international and local databases

1990s
Access to electronic resources on CD-ROMs
AGRIS, BPO, ERIC, etc. (non-full text databases)

1990s
Access to Internet, World Wide Web (WWW)

2000
Subscription to e-journals (full text packages)
Print and e-journals (Combo subscription). Librarians need to configure access to electronic version.

Electronic collections served as complimentary access and print collections are still crucial to library users.

Priorities are given to print collections. Electronic collections are being deprived.
• Online databases on aggregator’s platforms are more popular among librarians

• User-friendly platforms are required to reduce requirement for technical-know-how among users

• User education sessions are focusing on searching strategies

• Online Public Access Catalogs are still the main source of information, as perceived by librarians.
Print subscriptions were converted into electronic versions

Publishers introduced “e-only” subscription model

Tendencies for publishers to influence libraries on optimized benefits of converting to e-only subscriptions

Librarians perceived as great opportunities in terms of cost saving aspect.
• Publishers’ online platforms are becoming popular among libraries

• More publishers’ contents we developed and market commercially

• Researchers and students were exposed to usability of publisher’s online platform

• Libraries in Malaysia acquired backfiles to provide complete access to full-text contents
• Libraries were concerned about the ability to learn new concepts of purchasing model

• Library Purchasing Consortium were dealing with technical aspects of licensing aspects of subscribed databases

• More budget allocation for electronic resources

• Dependencies to e-resources among users are crucial
• Libraries welcomed electronic books in the market

• Access to electronic books via library service models

• Extremely affordable e-books

• Similar trends on aggregators’ platforms versus publishers’ platforms

• Reduce time spent for technical processes
RESOURCE SHARING AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

• Bound to license agreement

• Library consortium focuses on purchasing models and price negotiations

• Courtesy help instead of proper service channels

• We owe the same collections and continue maintaining the same collections

• Access to similar contents not unique contents
TRENDS VERSUS DEMANDS

• Library biased collections

• Long term subscriptions for specific group of users

• Consortium purchased contents versus customers’ requested contents

• Local market driven collections

• Promotions of e-resources among library users

• Measuring impact of e-resources
BUDGET ALLOCATION

• Challenges on maintaining subscriptions to current and new collections

• 3 years contract deals

• Ongoing price increases. What is the limits?

• New purchasing models

• Ongoing platform fees

• Highly technical databases, highly technical specifications.
• Branding of library collections

• Where do we go from here?

• How do we keep track of collections?

• Electronic Resource Management (ERM)

• How do users perceived e-resources?

• Managing access to e-resources
COMPETENCIES

- Serials Librarians
- Reference Librarians
- Electronic Resource Librarians
- Library Administrators
- Library Directors
• Moving towards world libraries

• Development and preservations of local contents

• Perpetual access

• Preservations of electronic resources at Malaysian academic libraries

• Direction of electronic resources @ Malaysian academic libraries
PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

• Virtual libraries, virtual collections, real budget consumptions

• New model for purchasing consortium

• Resource sharing and great sacrifices

• Competencies at all levels

• Perception versus realities
THANK YOU