

E-journal usage studies at Catalan academic libraries

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The CBUC

- Membership of the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia (CBUC) comprises all public universities of Catalonia and the National Library of Catalonia, while it also allows all types of libraries to participate in its programmes as users.
- Since 1999 it has negotiated licences for electronic resources through consortial purchasing of journals, books and databases.



Main lines of research

- Consortial gain: use of titles not previously subscribed to that have been licensed thanks to consortial purchasing.
- Characteristics of users and non-users of electronic journals: degree of knowledge and use of electronic journals among teaching staff, and influence of demographic characteristics such as age or discipline on the use of electronic journals.

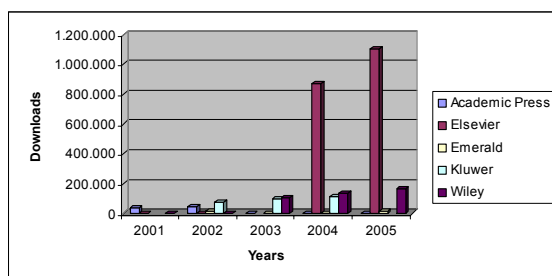


Methods

- Log analysis: Academic Press, American Chemical Society, Elsevier, Emerald, Kluwer, Wiley (2000-2005).
- User survey to all 14,000 lecturers at the universities that make up the CBUC (June 2005): 2,682 answers, representing a response rate of 18.05%



Evolution in use

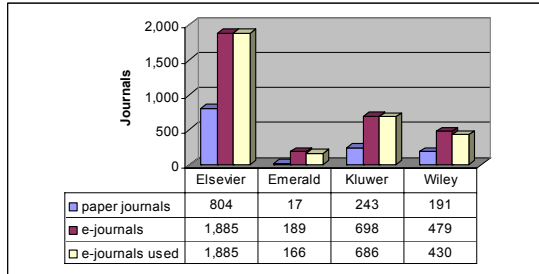


Downloads per journal and month (2003-2005)

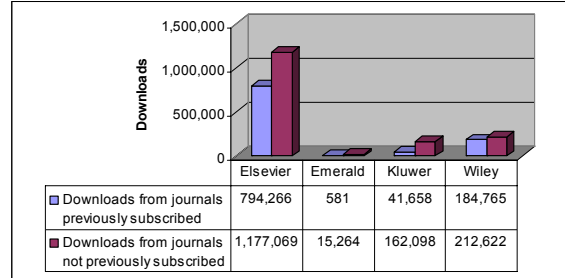
| | Journals | Period | Downloads | Downloads per journal and month |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Elsevier | 1.885 | 24 months | 1,972,913 | 43.61 |
| Emerald | 189 | 12 months | 15,845 | 6.99 |
| Kluwer | 753 | 24 months | 207,298 | 11.47 |
| Wiley | 671 | 36 months | 397,387 | 16.45 |



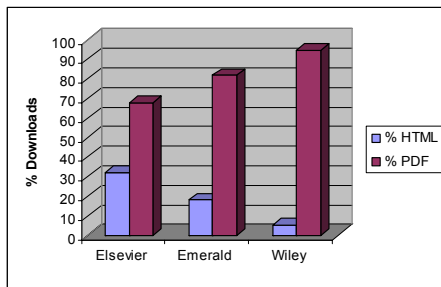
Consortial gain: journals



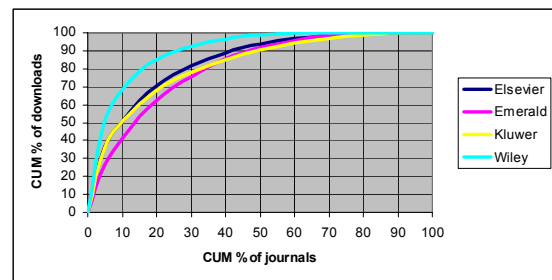
Consortial gain: downloads



Format preferences



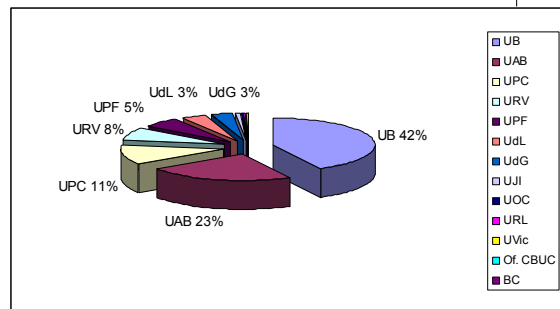
Use scattering



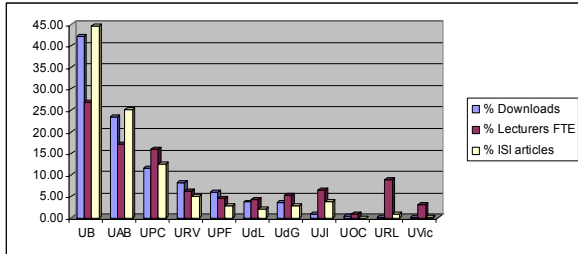
Use scattering

| | Journals | Journals previously available | Journals in the core (80% of downloads.) | % journals in the core | Journals in the core not previously available | % journals in the core not previously available |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Elsevier | 1,885 | 804 | 534 | 28.33 | 160 | 29.96 |
| Emerald | 189 | 17 | 66 | 34.92 | 54 | 81.82 |
| Kluwer | 753 | 243 | 245 | 32.54 | 112 | 45.71 |
| Wiley | 671 | 191 | 109 | 22.02 | 31 | 28.44 |

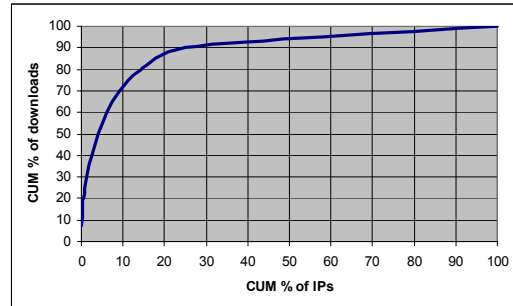
Distribution of use by institution



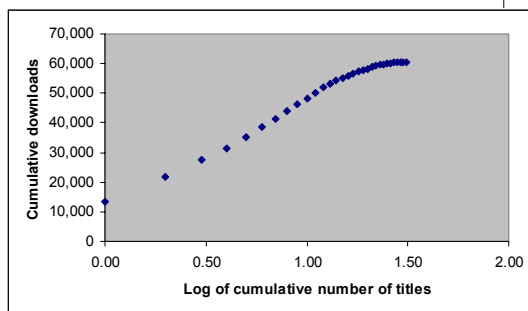
Institution's downloads, size and scientific output



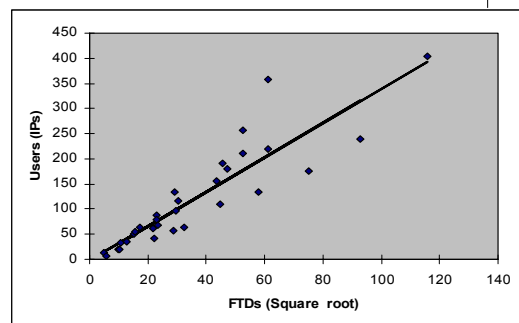
Downloads per IP address (ACS, one year)



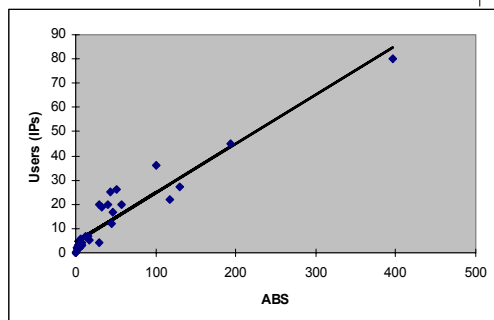
Bradford distribution for the downloads (ACS)



Relationship between article downloads and IPs (Rsquared=0.80)



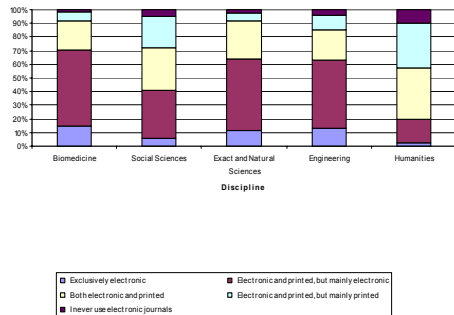
Relationship between abstracts downloads and IPs (Rsquared=0.89)



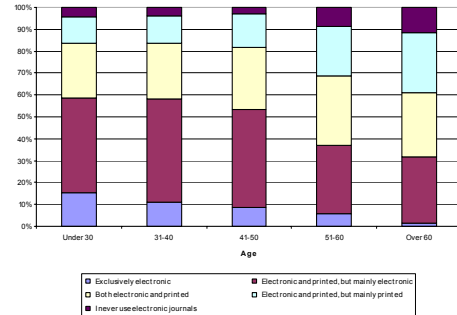
Awareness of the electronic journal collection

- Knowledge of the electronic journal collection is very high: 95.3% of the lecturers state that they are aware of the journal collection in electronic format.
- This figure is very similar for all the different disciplines, and is higher than 90% in all cases.

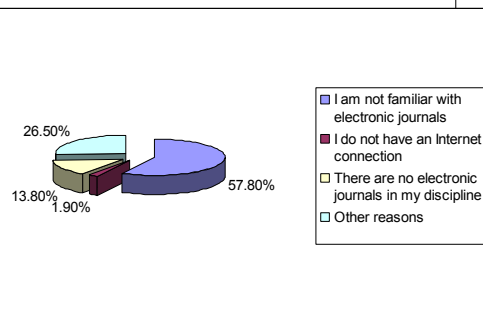
Relationship between use of electronic journals and discipline



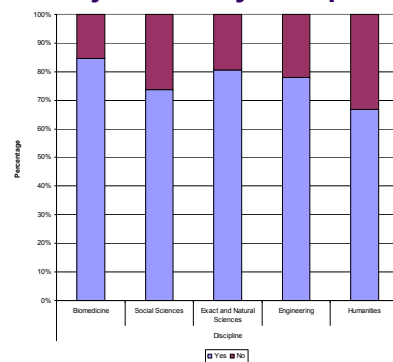
Relationship between use of electronic journals and age



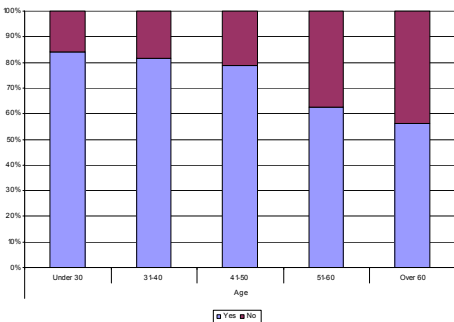
Reasons for using printed journals



Willingness to change to electronic journals by discipline



Willingness to change to electronic journals by age



Conclusions (I)

- Consortial purchase has led to a great increase in the access to electronic scientific journals and articles downloads: at some universities the new titles obtained with these licences represent percentages higher than 90%. There is a great deal of elasticity in the use of information due to the use of titles not previously subscribed to and the progressive absorption of new packages.
- The proportion of use of articles of titles not previously subscribed to is very high, though in many libraries the striking increase in new titles makes it hard to make a comparison with the previous situation: more than 60% of the articles downloaded by each library were from journals that this library did not have before the consortial purchase.
- In the electronic world there is a greater dispersion in the consumption of titles than seen in paper publications: 80% of downloads corresponded to 35% of the titles. This phenomenon could be due to a change in behaviour among users, who seem to prefer searching to the detriment of browsing as a means of accessing information.

Conclusions (II)



- When analysing data on use of journals by IP address, results have shown that a small group of IP addresses account for most sessions, article downloads and viewings of abstracts.
- The number of abstracts viewed may be a reliable indicator of the number of regular users of a journal. The consumers of abstracts would represent a stable community of habitual users of the journals, representative of the real and continued use of the subscribed titles.
- A survey has shown a great deal of knowledge and extensive use of electronic journals among teaching staff.
- Use of electronic journals seems to be closely related to age and discipline, with younger scholars and those working in sciences the more active users.

More details at:



- Borrego, A.; Anglada, L.; Barrios, M.; Comellas, N. 2007. Use and users of electronic journals at Catalan universities: results of a survey. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 33 (1), 67-75.
- Borrego, A.; Urbano, C. 2007. Analysis of the behaviour of the users of a package of e' journals in the field of chemistry. *Journal of Documentation*, 63 (2), 243-258.
- Urbano, C.; Anglada, L.; Borrego, A.; Cantos, C.; Coscolluela, A.; Comellas, N. 2004. The Use of Consortially Purchased Electronic Journals by the CBUC (2000-2003). *D-Lib Magazine*, 10 (6). Available at: [http:// www.dlib.org/dlib/june04/anglada/06anglada.htm](http://www.dlib.org/dlib/june04/anglada/06anglada.htm).

Thank you!

Any questions?

