

2012 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE*2012 & Beyond***Morning Oral Bites**

11:55 – 12:25

eBooks: what are our customers using?*Maggie Sarjantson, Keith Donaldson Library***Abstract:**

Anecdotal evidence suggests that staff and students have widely varying opinions regarding the value, user-friendliness and desirability of eBooks. However, as a response to the annual lament in the National Student Survey regarding book availability, eBooks are undoubtedly a valuable tool to increase accessibility, especially for large cohorts of students.

Over recent years the Library has increased its collection of eBooks, both as electronic copies in partnership with paper originals and as standalone eBooks to widen the collection. eBooks are either purchased out-right or via an annual subscription, whether as individual titles or eBook collections.

In order to boost the Library's stand-alone eBook collection a project to purchase eBooks selected by library users was initiated in early 2011 with funding of £15,000. The project, Patron Select, was organised via one of the Library's book suppliers, Coutts. Library staff pre-selected 1511 eBook titles and eBook records were supplied by Coutts to add to the Library catalogue. The individual eBook titles were then purchased by the Library once the full text of the eBook had been accessed twice or more by customers.

This presentation will highlight the success of the project, in terms of enhancing the collection, the number of books accessed and the usage of the eBooks selected.