

# Made in Nova Scotia: a new model for consortial eBook collections



# Who's Who

## Novanet

- Geoff Brown (Dal)
- Lou Duggan (SMU)
- Chris MacDonald (SMU)
- Marlo MacKay (DAL)
- Elaine MacLean (StFX)
- Terry Parris (MSVU)
- Denise Parrott (NSCC)
- Jennifer Richard (Acadia)
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## EBL/YBP

- Sophia Apostol (YBP)
- Alison Bobal (EBL)
- Meg Ecclestone (YBP)
- David Swords (EBL)
- Steve Sutton (YBP)



# Rationale

- Universal access to all clients through the catalogue/discovery layer
  - First time access was restricted even beyond ejournals (ILL available)
- Many members buying the same collections and duplicating the effort
- Potential to improve access to collections through financial efficiencies
- Change from 'just-in-case' model

# The Problem with eBooks

# No Universal Access

- All for one and one for all - NOT



# Duplication of Effort

- Loads, additions, deletions, edits



# Duplication of dollars

- Might be savings in buying packages together both in price and cost of administration





# Models



# Existing eBook Models for Individual Libraries

- Individual Novanet libraries may:
  - Direct purchase of individual titles and packages
  - STLs (short term loans)/purchase
  - Approval plans
  - Package leases (EBSCO)

# Consortia models

- Standard Consortia are more limited:
  - Purchase with Multipliers
  - Vendor still deals with individual libraries within consortia, still decentralized
  - Geared towards purchasing/ownership, may be owed only by the library that triggered the purchase

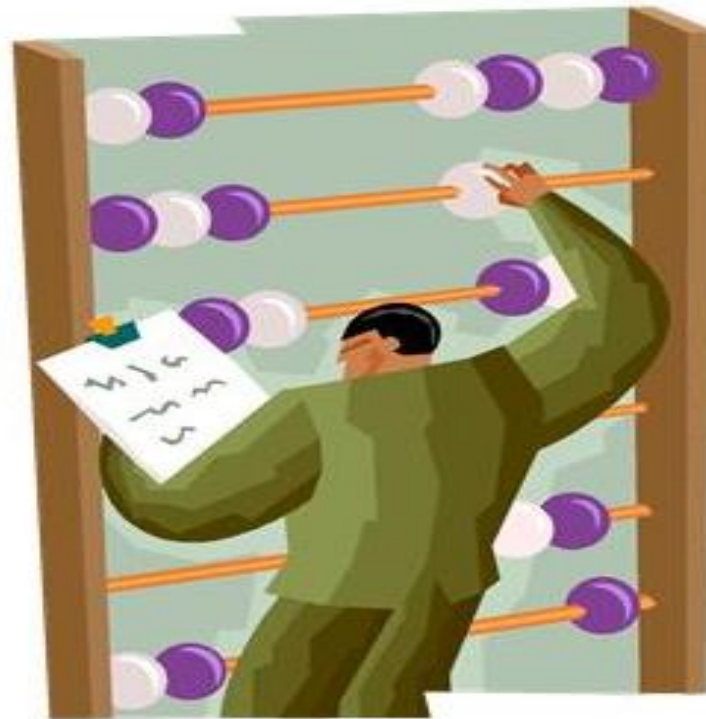
# The “Novanet” Model

- Universal access
- No multiplier
- 5 short term loans (STL); 7 day loan
- Purchase on 6<sup>th</sup> STL
- 14 loans per year, when 14 loans are reached within 365 days another copy is purchased.
- One fund managed centrally by Novanet

# Problems?

- Not as many publishers were willing to sign on – hoped for 50,000, got 16,000, slow, non-response from publishers
- Slow start: YBP staffing issues
- Issues with WCL
- New/groundbreaking for everyone: vendor/publishers/libraries

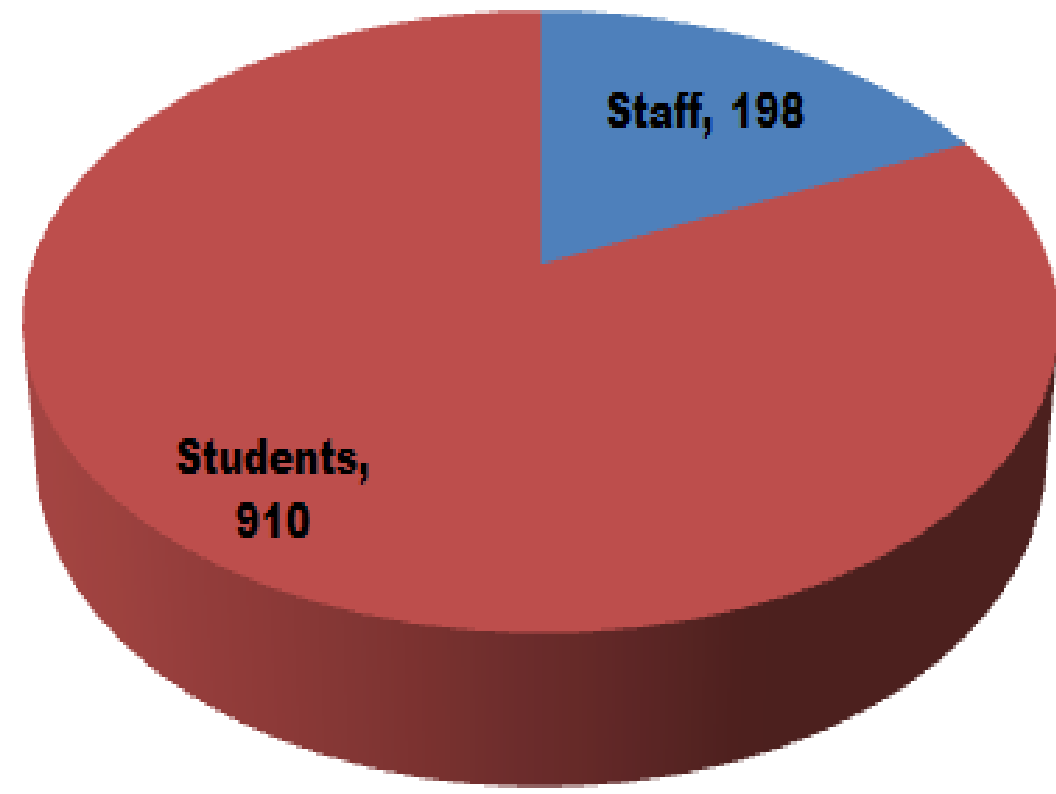
# Evaluate, evaluate, evaluate



## By the numbers, cost

- 13,440 discovery records
- Total list price \$950,000 (Avg. \$70)
- 1,100 uses, 868 borrowed at least once
- 10 items purchased
- STL and purchase fees of \$15,000
- If we had paid on first circulation: \$48,000

# By the Numbers, users





# By the Numbers, subjects



## Survey says...

- Findings supported one of the chief principles of the pilot, to remove institutional barriers for eBook access
- Gave great feedback for making changes to the pilot

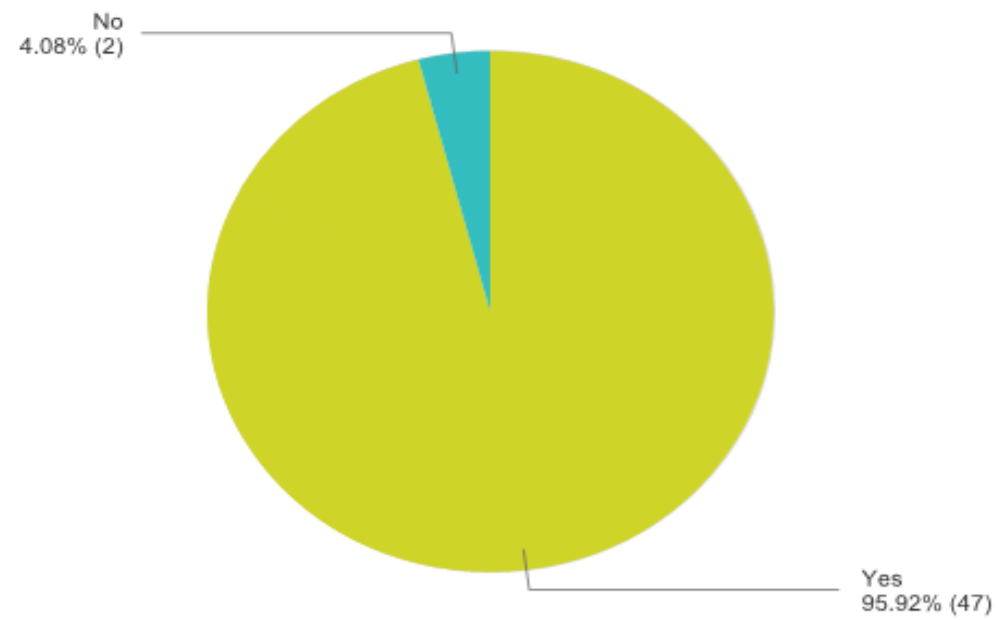
And...

- Highlighted the challenges of communication within a consortium

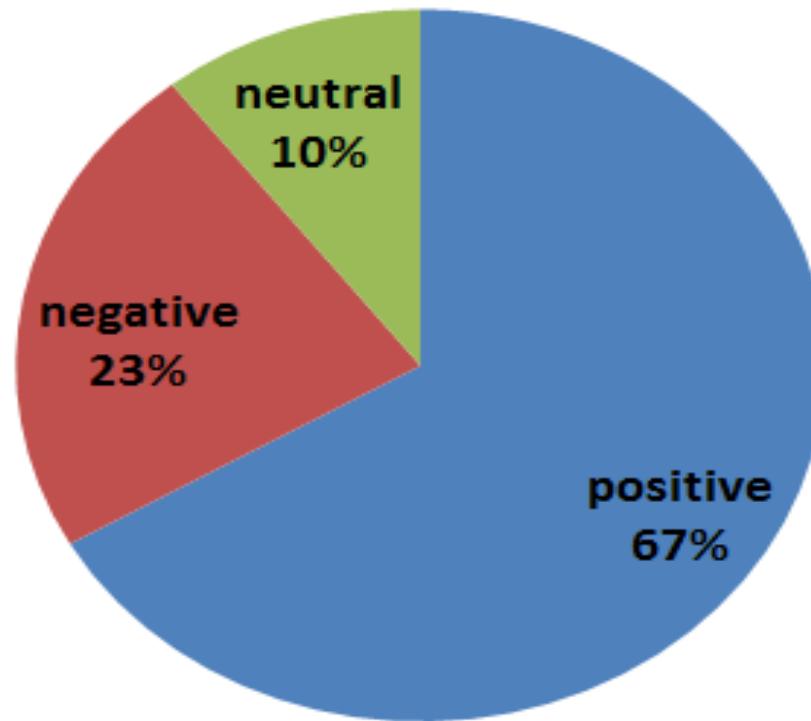
# Staff agreed with the rationale

**Do you think it is an improvement for students, faculty and staff to have access to a pool of ebook titles in a shared, commonly accessible catalogue?**

Answered: 49 Skipped: 0



# Staff think we're on the right track...mostly



# What they liked

- ... “in the spirit of Novanet”
- “One of the biggest problems with Ebooks is an inability to share them...Ebooks felt like a step back ...This shared PDA might help fix that and get us back on track.”

# What they didn't like

- "...still an overwhelming number of institutionally purchased ebooks in the catalogue."
- "students are continually telling me they do NOT want e-books"

# Survey recommendations we can address...

- Communicate the fate of the pilot
- Communicate a revised timeline
- Provide Web video tutorials

# And some we can't yet...

- Allow linking in course management systems & reserves, interlibrary loans and walk-in use
- Implement a longer loan period
- Move all ebooks to this model
- Develop better searching to eliminate ebook results



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# Competition versus Collaboration

- Want to be the first library to....
- Needs of students at individual institutions priority for each
- Library administrators face pressure at their individual institutions
- Mixed messages from Government/Institutions

# Resource Sharing

- Difficulty in communications among collection librarians
- Who collects what?
- Trust?
- Technology limitations
- Year end money
- Additional reasons to push Novanet to be a truer consortium rather than just a shared ILS

# Preservation/Stewardship

- What should libraries in Atlantic Canada be “buying”
  - print
  - Electronic
- What materials don't need to be “purchased” versus access only (subscriptions)
  - Inherent concerns/fears of access only
  - Problems with access to purchased or perpetual rights materials (Web of Science, DRM)
- What about special collections and archives?

# Financials/Current Collections

- While providing the best services and resources to our communities, there is always pressure to do it cost-effectively.
- Other consortial pilot projects not benefited libraries
  - OCUK example: \$150,000 spent in 8 days, approx. 4 copies of 450 titles purchased.
  - Over \$300/title.
- Novanet: STL cost: \$12.81, average purchase cost: \$77.80
- Statistics from Dal, SMU and Acadia: our current print collections' usage statistics are low
  - 60% of items never circulating
  - 30% of titles only circulating once.
  - Supports the Novanet model.

# Going forward...

- Not enough data/evidence (yet).
- But, early indications show:
  - Positive response from staff, faculty and students
  - Consortial model is favorable
  - Pilot allowed us to recognize what needs to be addressed next time (and there should be a next time):
    - Quality of collections
    - Duplication
    - Improved features (reserves, walk ins, ILL)

# Sources

- Elephant cartoon:  
[http://www.ahigherself.com.au/?page\\_id=64](http://www.ahigherself.com.au/?page_id=64)