IFLA—the global voice of libraries

IFLA: portavoz mundial de las bibliotecas

IFLA : la voix des bibliothèques dans le monde

IFLA—die globale Stimme der Bibliotheken

ИФЛА - глобальный голос библиотек

国际图联——全球图书馆的声音

الإفلا - الصوت الدولي للمكتبات
From Red to Green: Building and Managing the Scientific Electronic collections for a new Sci-Tech University Library

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http://www.flickr.com/photos/kaust_photos/3546363593/

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dune_uk/9309945018/
King Abdullah Uni of Sci and Tech, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Inaugurated in 2009
Globally renowned graduate research university that makes significant contributions to scientific and technological advancement, and will play a crucial role in the development of Saudi Arabia

First cohort of students of 800 graduate students (25% female) taught by 100 faculty
King Abdullah Uni of Sci and Tech, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

3 broad science and engineering divisions:
• Math and Computer Science
• Physical Sciences
• Chemical and Life Sciences
Demographics:

- 36% of the student population were coming from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East,
- 34% from Asia,
- 21% from the Americas,
- 5% from Europe, and
- 4% from Africa
KAUST Library

3 stories high and “clad in translucent marble and glass”

• 14,000 square meters of space
• 150 public workstations
• Wireless network connectivity
• 400 seats
• Quiet and Group study areas
• PC Lab
• Meeting and presentation room
• Copy center & Café
The Early Days

London Meeting in 2008

• Hosted by University for senior admin staff and faculty members

• Conducted survey: Obtain overview on the needed library resources. Done by a local vendor

• Substantial amount of budget was set aside for the subscription and ‘purchase’ of perpetual content
The Early Days

Notable:
No professional librarians were involved during that stage
The Early Days

- Local vendor was given exclusive rights for the design and implementation of the new digital library system

- Library do not have much bargaining power in terms of negotiating the prices and license agreements
Challenges

• Access issues. IT and Library work closely to ensure that the IP range was established and configured correctly.

• Altho KAUST had a state of the art computer network, it was new and untested. Authentication issues, IP address ranges and VPN connections – Not entirely worked out.
Challenges

- Negotiating license agreements with publishers thru several start-ups were confusing and time consuming
User Interface

- Library appointed local vendor to design a user interface for the access of the electronic resources
E-Resources Management

- Information regarding the electronic resources were kept in Excel and Hard Drive

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dareenz/6872461535/
Turn-Around

2010: Turning point.

1. Amendment of the electronic resources procurement policy.

2. Migration of DigitalLibraryPlus to Integrated Library System from Innovative Interfaces
Turn-Around

Processing the renewals and all new products requests directly with the publishers.

Negotiating the cost, issuing the purchasing orders, and following up on payments.

Setting up the plan for support services with local vendors through bidding.
II. Support services:
Indirect services such as provision of trainings for library users will be provided by local vendors and paid by the university.
Collection Development

- Library Subject Specialist: Research section responsible for assessing, evaluating and selecting the electronic resources for the library

Collection Development

• Focus more on Science and Technical collections

Collection Development

Assessment stage:

- Getting feedback from faculty members, students, post-docs and researchers
- Negotiated trial periods from the publishers for the electronic resources product
- Checked usage statistics after the trial period
Collection Development

Assessment stage:

- Electronic resources were checked for their subject coverage and the relevancy of their usage with regards to the university research-based subjects available
Collection Development

Assessment stage:

• Specialists consulted and conducted face-to-face interviews with their respective faculty members

• Each Specialists were assigned to specified schools
Selection Criteria

• Relevancy of the electronic resources with regards to the subjects taught in the university

• Price fitting into budget allotted or in other words value for money

• Currency of the information
Selection Criteria

Negotiation and License Agreement

- Research Specialist and IT department worked together to negotiate with the publisher to agree to an acceptable price

- Acquisitions Team: Handle the payments and ensuring access is available
Implementation

- Ensure that all electronic resources can be accessed by authorized users on and off campus
- Add / Update details into E-Journals A-Z, OPAC
- Ensure electronic resources work with the link resolvers
Future Directions