



**ICOLC**  
International Coalition  
of Library Consortia

Mar 20, 2025

# Aligning E-Book Offerings with Library Needs: A Call for Dialogue and Respect

## Statement

The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) acknowledges the complex business decisions e-book vendors face in today's evolving market. However, as customers, we firmly believe that these decisions must align with the core values and mission of libraries and library consortia. As representatives of approximately 200 library consortia worldwide, ICOLC is committed to advocating partnerships that prioritize the needs of libraries and their communities.

An ICOLC survey of over 500 libraries and library consortia worldwide highlights a fundamental need for e-book solutions based on permanent access. The survey results reflect the collective concern libraries have regarding potential shifts to less flexible purchasing models and the impact that has on equitable access. It is essential that vendors understand the critical importance of providing stable, long-term access to resources.

ICOLC emphasizes the need for open dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders. Libraries value partnerships that reflect and meet the needs of their users. We encourage e-book vendors to more actively engage with library professionals during product development, ensuring that their solutions are responsive to the realities faced by libraries.

The ability to curate collections based on community needs is fundamental to the mission of libraries, ensuring that resources remain relevant and responsive to evolving user demands. We advocate for empowerment in collection development, allowing libraries to select resources that meet specific user demands rather than being confined to generic subscription packages. By prioritizing flexibility, libraries can allocate budgets more effectively according to their needs and strategies.

ICOLC and its members stress the importance of competition in the marketplace. We encourage our vendor partners to explore different collaborative approaches and business models that support a competitive environment, ensuring that libraries have access to a wide range of materials that reflect the needs and interests of their communities.

## Contact Persons

ICOLC Coordinating Committee: [icolccoord@lyrasislists.org](mailto:icolccoord@lyrasislists.org)

## Endorsing Organizations

### **ICOLC Coordinating Committee**

Amanda Holmes, Co-Chair (FY 2022-2025), Canadian Research Knowledge Network | CRKN

Amy Pawlowski (CY 2025-2027), Ohio Library and Information Network | OhioLINK

Angus Cook (FY 2022-2025), Council of Australasian University Librarians | CAUL

Anne Craig (FY 2022-2025), Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois | CARLI

César Pallares (CY 2024-2026), Consorcio Colombia/CONSORTIA

Dyveke Sijm (CY 2023-2025), Royal Danish Library | KBNL | UNGLI

Jiří Jirát, Co-Chair (CY 2023-2025, 2nd term), Czech National Centre for Electronic Resources | CzechELib

Milan Vasiljevic (CY 2024-2026), Qatar National Library Consortium

Rick Moul, (CY 2025-2027, second term), Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries | PASCAL

Celeste Feather, ex officio for administration, Lyrasis

Sharla Lair, ex officio, ICOLC Program Coordinator, ICOLC

## About ICOLC

The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) is a professional organization of approximately 200 library consortia from around the world. ICOLC serves consortia staff by providing professional development, information and expertise sharing, and peer benchmarking with like-minded organizations.

Membership in the ICOLC community provides value through fostering trusted personal relationships with trusted colleagues. These relationships offer opportunities for problem-solving, mentoring, and counseling. The organization advances common goals through peer-to-peer networking, development of best practices, and by facilitating deeper collaborative action and advocacy amongst members.

# E-Book Access: Balancing Business Decisions with Library Core Values

A recent ICOLC survey of over 500 libraries and consortia worldwide reveals a strong demand for e-book solutions that ensure permanent access. The findings highlight widespread concerns about shifts toward less flexible purchasing models, which could limit libraries' ability to effectively serve their communities. The results inform an ICOLC Statement that addresses the critical need for sustainable and equitable e-book access models that align with library values and long-term access.

## Survey Respondents

CONSORTIA  
68

INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES  
511

### COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Japan  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Scotland  
Switzerland  
United Arab Emirates  
United States

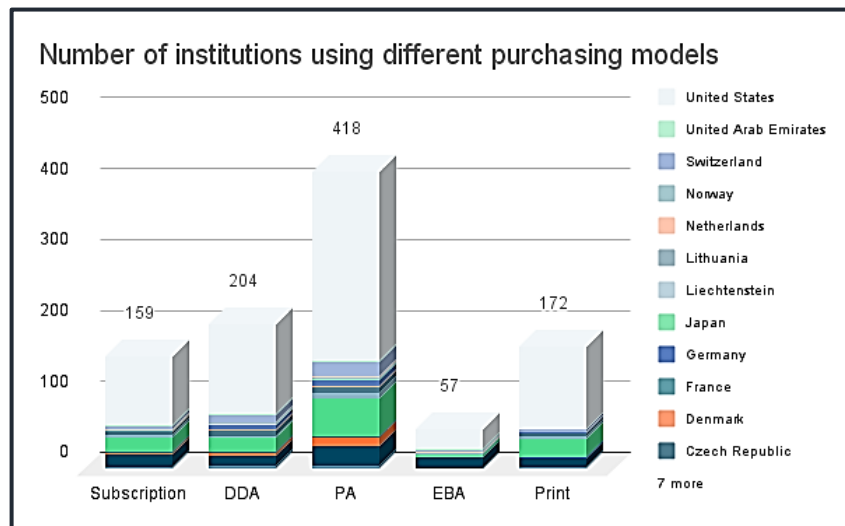
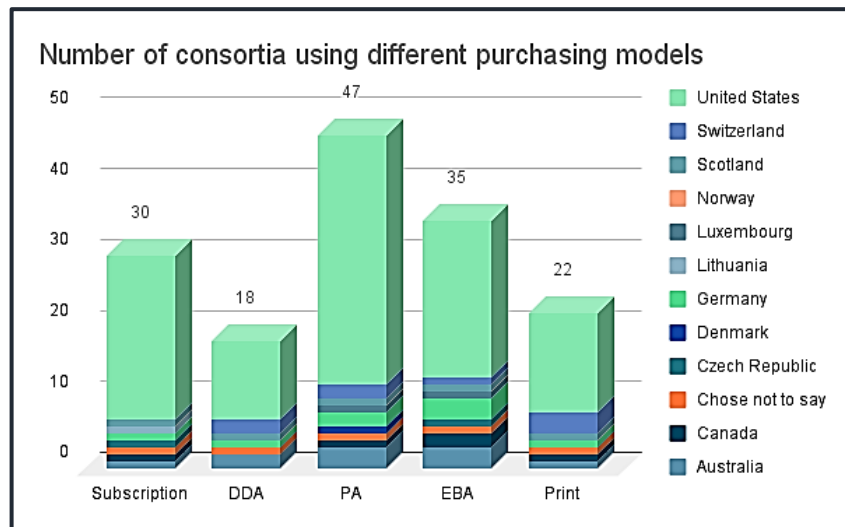
Read the ICOLC Statement



For more information contact:  
[icolccoord@lyrislists.org](mailto:icolccoord@lyrislists.org)

More information about ICOLC can  
be found at [www.icolc.net](http://www.icolc.net)

While any of the perpetual access models or print is used by more than 90% of consortia or institutions, subscriptions are utilized by less than 35%.



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