

Do We Really Need an ERMS?

Evaluating a Subscription Agent's Resource Management Tool

Problem

The HS/HSL has over 24,000 electronic resource subscriptions to support programs in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Social Work. We need a more effective way to:

- Manage the life-cycle of subscriptions
- Store licensing information for cross-library use
- Create reports that aid in collection development

Possible Solutions

Home-grown databases and spreadsheets

- What we use now
- Satisfactory but labor intensive

Stand-Alone ERMS

- Follow DLF/ERMI recommendations
- Strong relationships between ERMS vendors/publishers/standards organizations

But

- Expensive
- Labor Intensive to populate
- Yet another module to maintain

SwetsWise eSource Manager

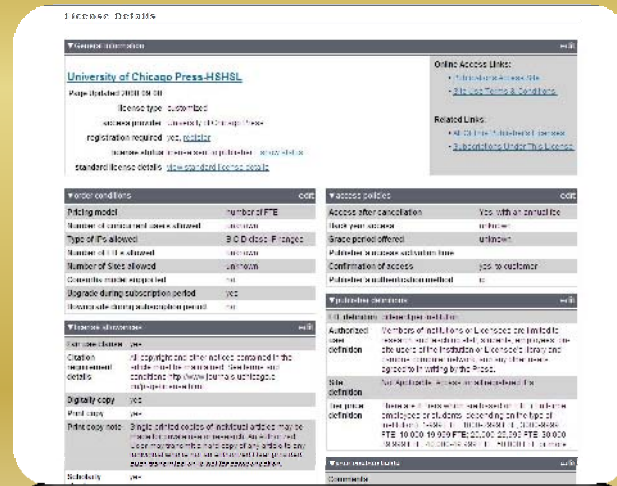
- Provides a databank of standard publisher licenses
- Allows customization of licenses and creation from a template
- Stores digital copies of signed licenses
- Integrates with SwetsWise, making title association to license easy
- Provides licensing information for cross-library use
- Forthcoming add-on module promises integration of usage statistics to generate reports useful for collection development

But

- Most useful for journal subscriptions purchased through Swets; databases and package deals have to be entered manually
- SwetsWise interface not intuitive for locating licensing information

Serial Vendors Solutions

- Established relationship between vendor and library
- Vendors experts in managing serial subscriptions
- Vendors maintain strong relationships with serial publishers



Conclusions

SwetsWise eResource Manager is a promising product that leverages existing databases and relationships to provide some e-resource management capability. With the forthcoming additional modules and enhancements it could certainly substitute for a stand-alone ERMS at an institution of our size.