

Report of a process to explore the school ebook landscape

December 2014

In October 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) contracted with WiLS for a process to explore the school ebook landscape. Working in conjunction with DPI and with a workgroup of school media specialists from around Wisconsin*, WiLS completed the following activities:

1. Surveyed school media specialists in Wisconsin.
2. Using criteria developed from the results of the survey and feedback from the workgroup, surveyed eight vendors that provide ebooks to the school library market.
3. Investigated other multi-district ebook projects in the U.S.
4. Based on the information gathered in Steps 1-3, prepared two possible models for a multi-district project in Wisconsin.

The results of these activities are presented in this report. Please note: this report was created for the Wisconsin Department of Instruction and the information provided by vendors was given to WiLS with the intention it would not be shared publicly.

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Results from the survey of school media specialists

The primary purpose of this survey was to gain a better understanding of the landscape of ebook projects in the state and also to identify how ebooks are being used and what school library media specialists value in ebook services in order to develop a list of criteria for a potential statewide ebook project.

The survey was sent to individuals who expressed interest and was also posted to a variety of email lists and Google communities. The results are based on self-selected respondents, not on a scientific random sample, and are intended to provide a general picture about ebooks in school libraries in Wisconsin.

Fast Facts about the Survey

Number of respondents: 146

Number of those respondents providing access to ebooks: 132

Number of those respondents not providing access to ebooks: 14

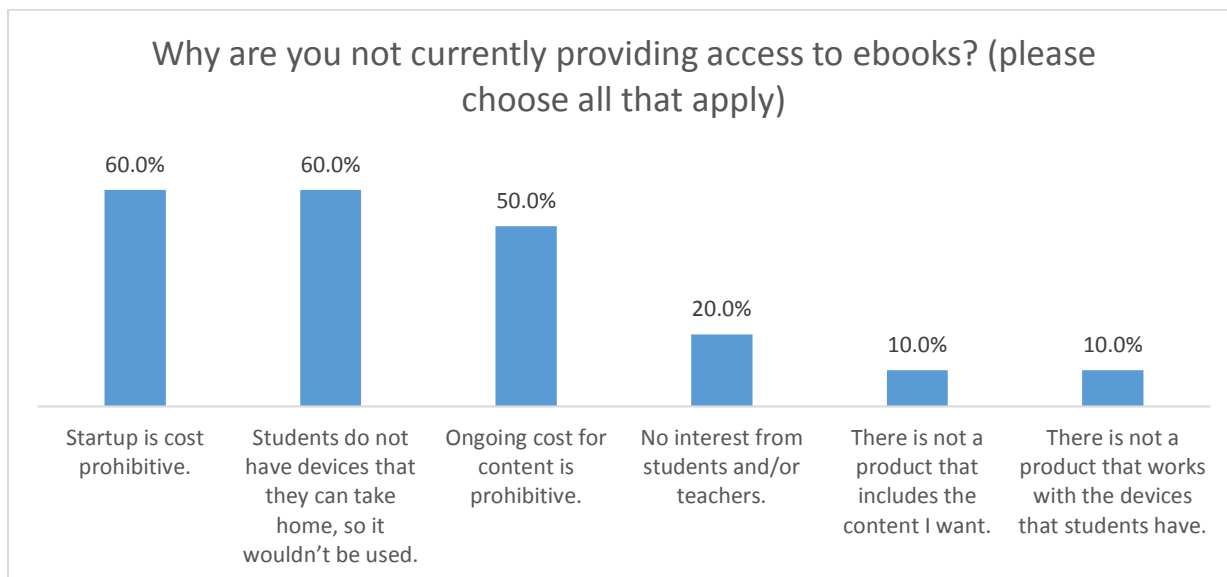
(Quick takeaway: over 90% of respondents are already purchasing one or more products for ebooks.)

Number of school districts represented: 98

(11 districts submitted multiple surveys)

A little bit more about those not currently providing ebooks.....

The survey asked those that do not currently provide ebooks to respond to the question, “Why are you not currently providing access to ebooks? (please choose all that apply).” 10 of the 14 respondents that are not providing ebooks responded to this question:



The open-ended responses revealed some additional reasons:

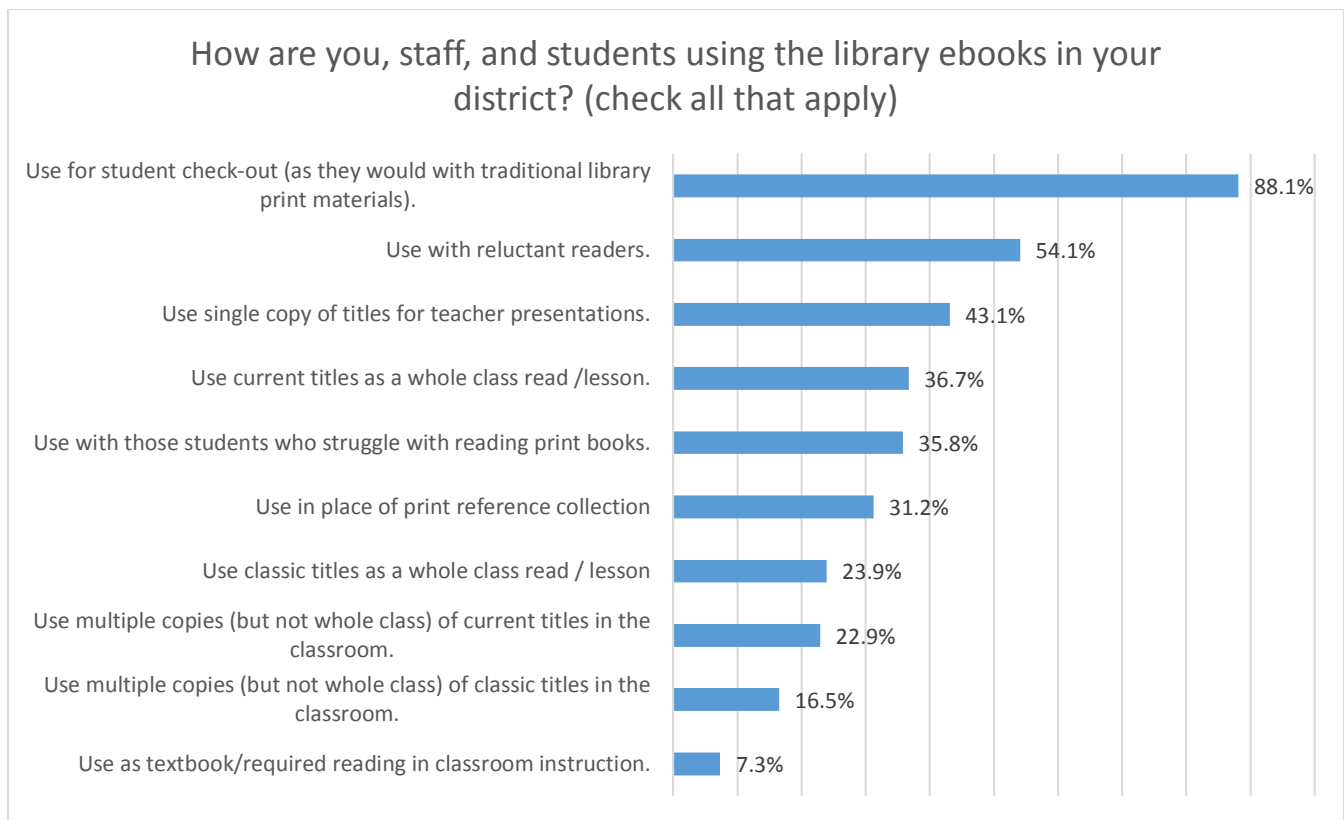
- Two respondents cited management/administration issues.
- Three respondents indicated that they are moving in the direction of providing ebooks.
- One indicated that they are utilizing the resources provided by the public library.

See Appendix A for all open-ended comments.

Quick takeaway: It is noteworthy that the concerns expressed from most of the respondents that do not provide ebooks at this time are not related to products or platforms or even to interest but to cost and devices.

How are school libraries currently using ebooks?

The respondents that are providing ebooks were asked some additional questions about how ebooks are being used in their district:



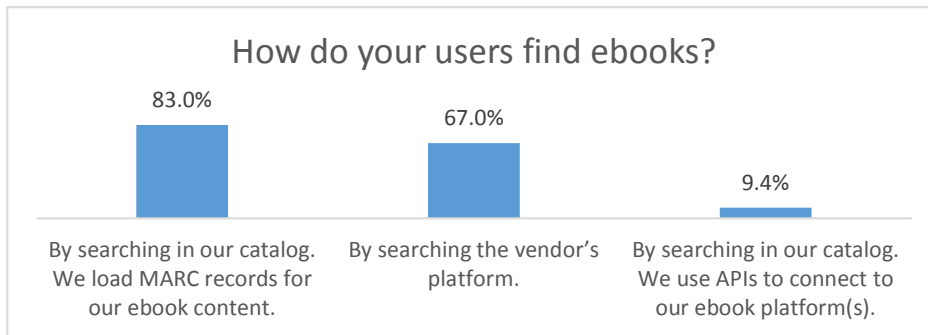
Other suggested uses are for stations in classroom and staff checkout. See Appendix A for all open-ended comments.

These uses imply that an ideal system would have multiple copies (or “classroom sets”) available for current and classic titles, along with single copies for individual use.

Quick takeaway: Respondents are most commonly using ebooks to emulate traditional circulation of library material.

How do users discover ebooks?

Respondents were asked how users find the ebooks available to them:



In the open-ended comments, respondents also reported others ways their users discover their ebooks:

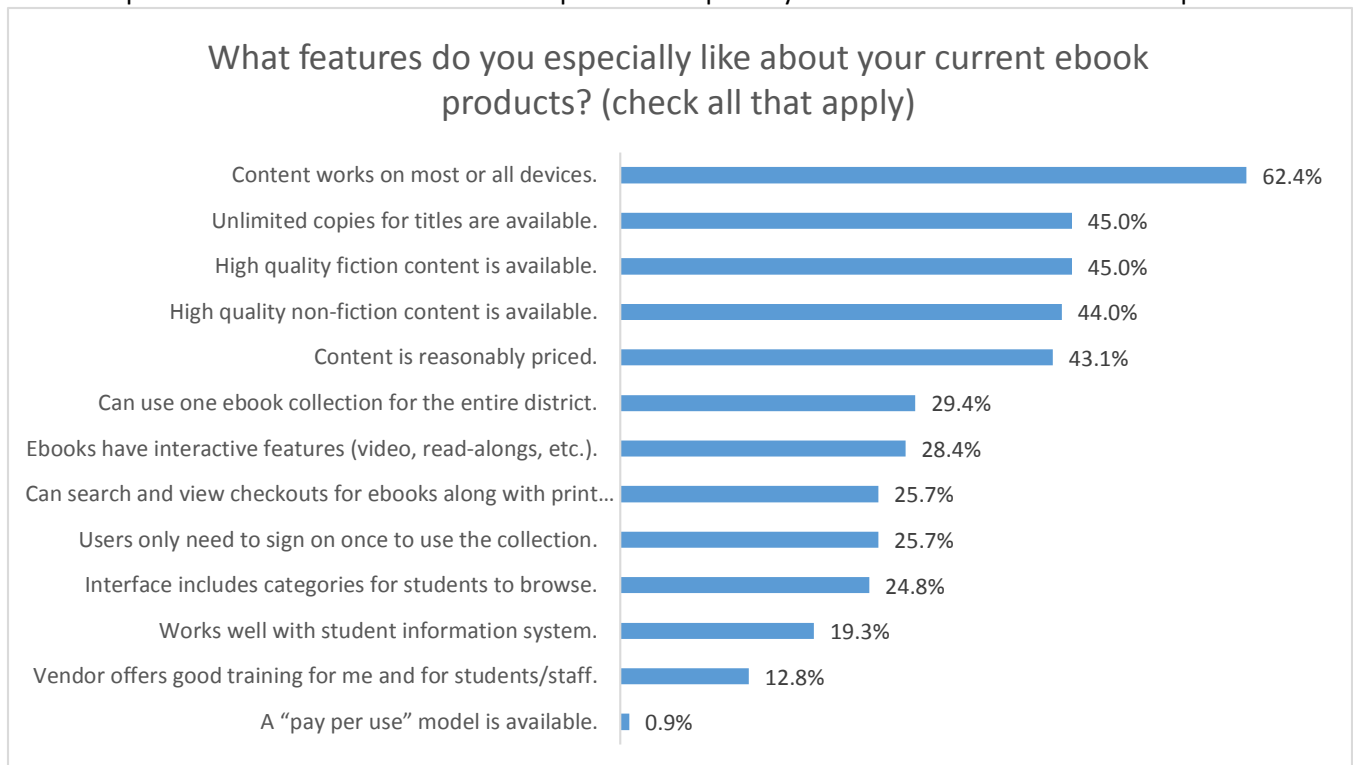
- Through the library website
- Displays in the library
- Libguides
- Word of mouth
- Librarian suggestions
- Borrowing a device and reading what's on it!

Quick takeaway: The vendor site and library catalog are both valuable ways for users to discover ebooks. MARC records for all content is important for discovery.

See Appendix A for all open-ended comments.

What features do school libraries especially like?

The next question asked what features the respondents especially liked about their current ebook products:

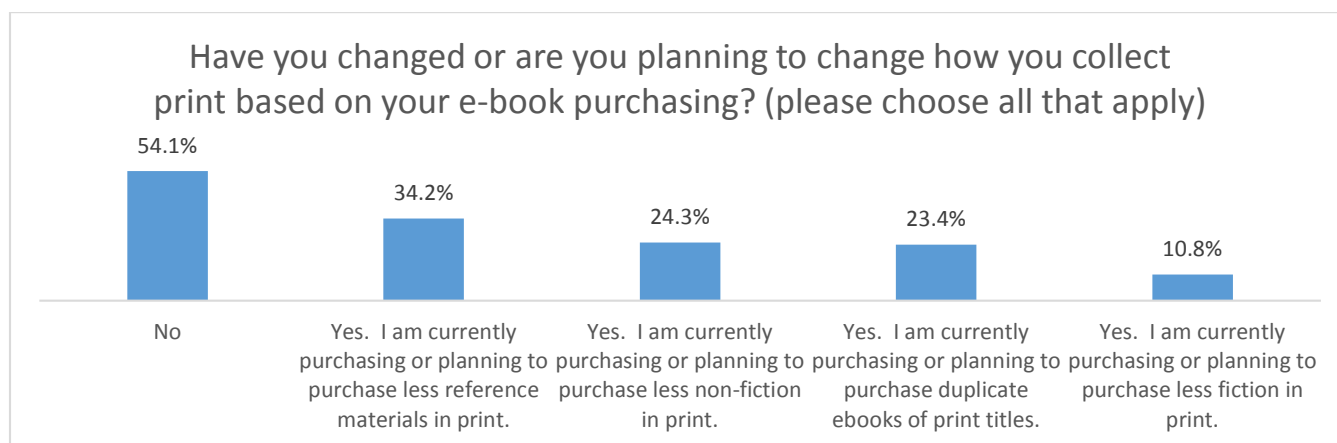


The open-ended comments in this section focused primarily on price and models. Some respondents expressed interest in pay per use models. Others lamented the high prices of ebooks and others expressed concern about content that expires either after a certain amount of time or checkouts. See Appendix A for all open-ended comments.

Quick takeaway: Content is king! Having content that works on most devices, is available, is high quality, and is reasonably priced are the most valued features in current ebook collections.

How are school libraries changing their purchasing?

Respondents were asked if they have changed or are planning to change how they collect print based on their ebook purchasing:

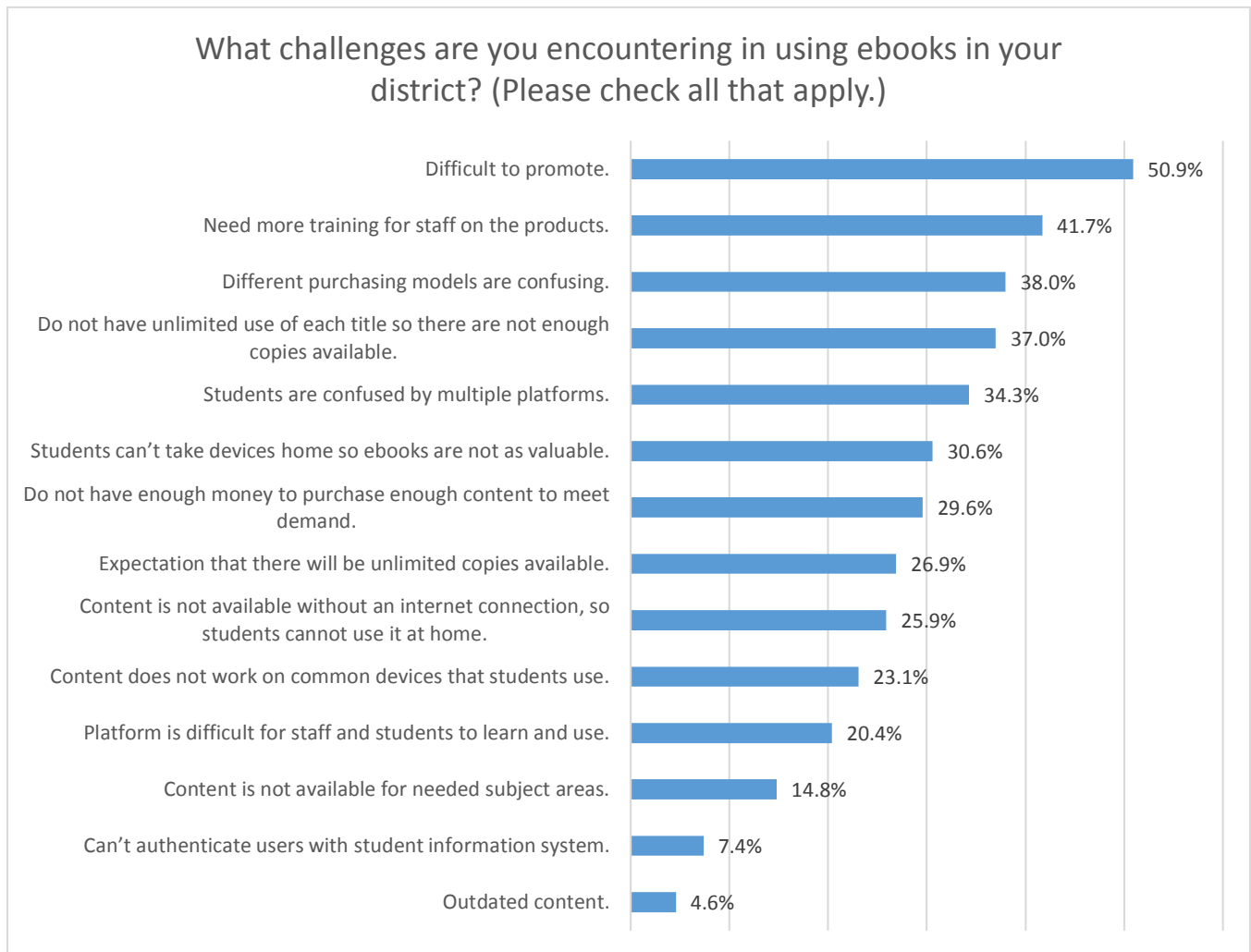


The open-ended comments from respondents suggest that some libraries are continuing to purchase print the same as they were because a majority of students prefer print over ebooks. Other comments suggest that replacing print with ebooks is difficult due to licensing issues or to a lack of devices for students. See Appendix A for all open-ended comments.

Quick takeaway: The majority of respondents have not changed their print purchasing because of their ebook collections. Of those that have, the biggest change is in reference and non-fiction where less print is being purchased.

And what challenges are they facing?

Respondents were asked about the challenges in using ebooks in their district:



Other challenges including managing devices, wireless capacity in the school, limiting student reading to school assigned devices/not allowing students to use their own devices, long waiting lists for popular titles, “classic” classroom titles not being available as ebooks, concern about additional screen time for younger students, students preferring print books (this appears to be a theme expressed at different times throughout the survey results). See Appendix C for all open-ended comments.

Quick takeaway: Promotion, training, and purchasing models are the biggest reported challenges.

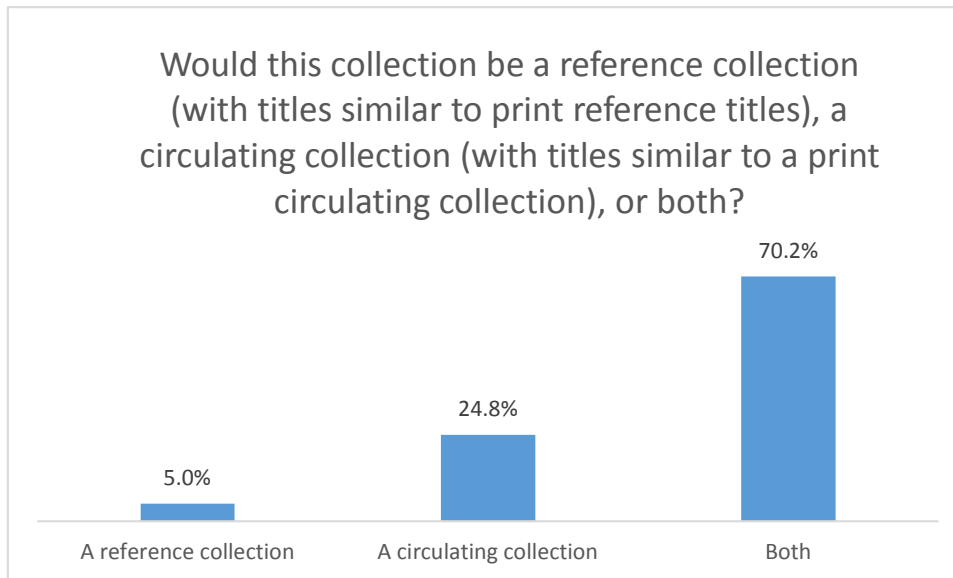
Promotion was not only reported as a challenge in this question, but also in the open-ended comments at the end of the survey.

The perfect ebook scenario

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their perfect ebook scenario.

What kind of collection?

Respondents were first asked what type of collection their perfect ebook collection would be:



Respondents expressed a strong preference for a collection that has both circulating and reference materials in it.

What are the important elements?

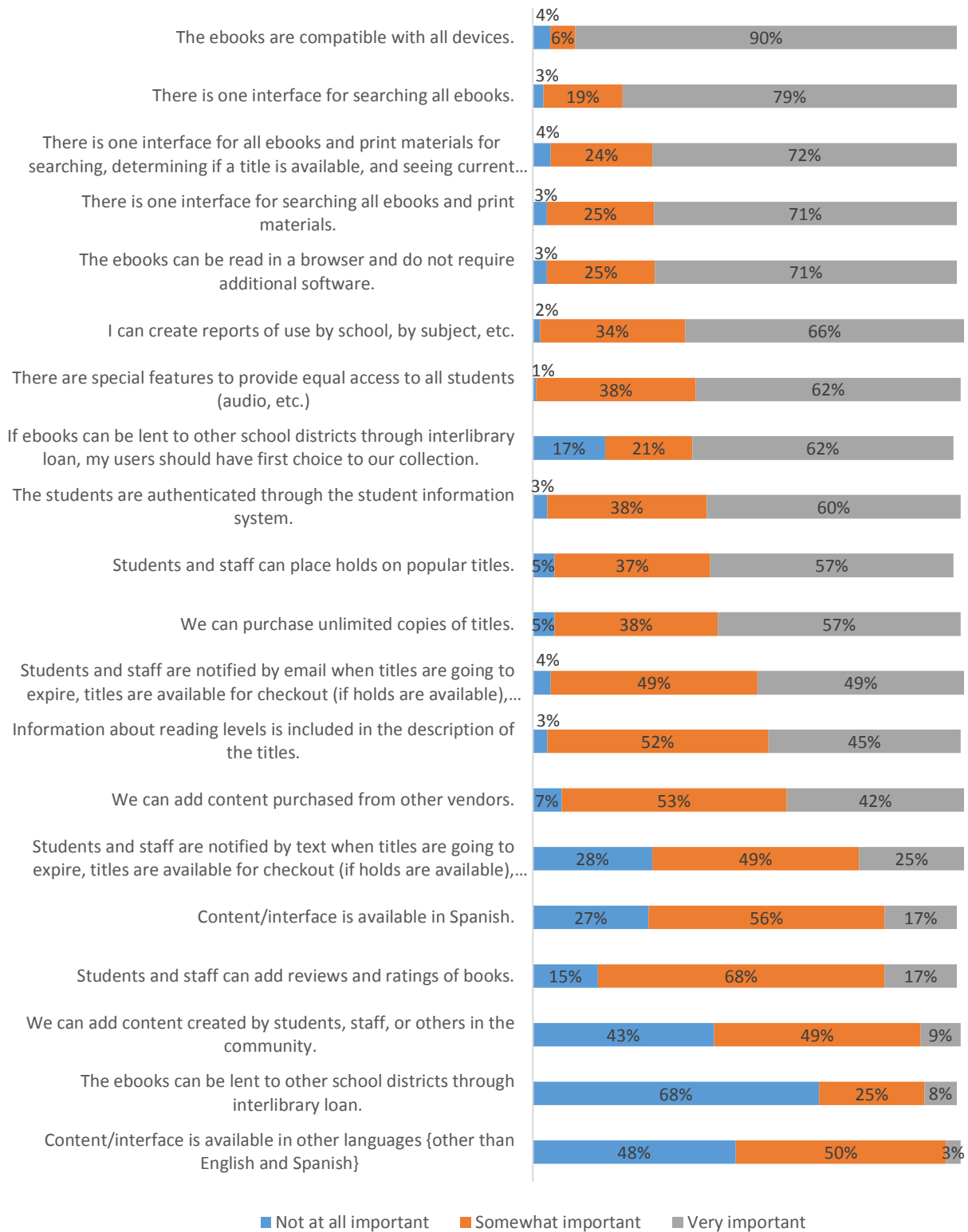
The next question asked respondents how important various elements are to the perfect ebook collection. Respondents were given a three point scale of “not at all important”, “somewhat important”, and “very important”. Responses are on the next page, sorted by percentage of respondents that answered “very important”. Device compatibility and a single interface top the list of highly rated items. Having content in languages other than English and locally created content, along with the ability to loan to other districts, are the least highly ranked items.

The next question asked respondents to list other features that they would want in their perfect ebook scenario. The comments included:

- A consistent platform that did not change frequently
- Searching options within books
- Text read-aloud
- Affordable
- MARC records
- Popular titles and entire series
- DRM-free titles

There were some comments about purchasing scenarios. Some respondents expressed concern about titles that will expire (a theme throughout the survey) while a couple are interested in the pay-per-use model. See Appendix A for all responses to this question.

Below is a list of 20 statements that could describe elements of a perfect ebook scenario. For each statement, please indicate how important that element would be to YOUR perfect ebook scenario.



Anything else?

The final question asked respondents if they had anything else they would like to share with us. Many respondents took the opportunity to share additional thoughts, which are all included in Appendix A (with vendor specific vendor information/comments removed).

Application of this information

The primary purpose of this survey was to gain a better understanding of the landscape of ebook projects in the state and also to identify how ebooks are being used and what school library media specialists value in ebook services in order to develop a list of criteria for a potential statewide ebook project.

After discussing the results of this survey with the workgroup, a list of criteria was finalized and a vendor survey was developed. The next section of this report provides the results of that survey.

Results from the Vendor Survey

The next step in our process was to conduct a survey of vendors that sell ebooks to the K12 market. Rather than do a comprehensive survey of all vendors, the workgroup recommended surveying eight vendors:

- 3M
- Baker & Taylor
- EBSCO
- Follett
- Gale
- Mackin
- OverDrive
- ProQuest

Vendors that offer only subscription products that do not allow for selection of individual titles were not included on this list. The workgroup felt that the focus of a statewide ebook project should not be these subscription products as they are subscriptions and could fit into the scope of the existing BadgerLink project

A survey was developed based on the results of the survey of school media specialists and input from the workgroup. The survey was sent to the eight vendors, and seven of the eight responded (3M did not respond).

Appendix B on pages 21 – 58 include the complete profiles created from responses to the survey.

There are a few key questions that are helpful as we consider the possible vendors for a statewide ebook collection, based on the elements to include in a statewide project (see pages 13-16) and the most desired features of school media specialists, as determined by surveying them. The responses from these questions are presented in a summary table on the next page to allow for easy comparison for these areas.

Unfortunately, the scope of this project did not allow us to spend time clarifying most answers submitted by the vendors. The responses are primarily presented as submitted by the vendors. If investigation into a statewide ebook project continues, detailed discussions should be undertaken with each vendor to develop a complete and comparable understanding of acquisition models and of the capabilities for allowing searching, circulation status information display, and circulation through school library catalogs.

Another important consideration is the relationship of the vendor to the publishers. Different vendors cultivate and maintain different relationships with publishers. As you may note in the vendor responses, any questions related to content often have an “it depends on the publisher” response. The restrictions on the collection – whether it can be a multi-district collection, whether it can be a collection that has content for district access as well as statewide content – will be dependent on the publishers and their relationships with the vendors. Having the level of discussion necessary to determine what these restrictions may be was not in the scope of this project, but should be further considered in the future.

Summary table of key questions from the vendor survey

	Baker & Taylor	EBSCO	Follett	Gale	Mackin	OverDrive	ProQuest
Amount spent with vendor on ebooks in 13/14 school year.	\$15,000	Not available	Not available	\$262,000	Not available	\$530,000	\$0
Multiple school districts can share collection of titles.	Yes (see pg. 23)	Yes (see pg. 28)	Yes (see pg. 34)	No	Yes (see pg. 44)	Yes (see pg. 50)	Yes (see pg. 55)
Districts can also create local collections within shared collection.	Yes (see pg. 23)	Yes (see pg. 28)	Yes (see pg. 34)	N/A	Yes (see pg. 44)	Yes (see pg. 50)	Yes (see pg. 55)
Users can see holds/checkouts through school library catalog	Yes (see pg. 26)	Working on it (see p. 30)	Only with Follett Destiny (see pg. 37)	N/A (not necessary due to unlimited use model)	Working on it (see pg. 47)	Yes (see pg. 52)	Yes (see pg. 57)
Device compatibility	Windows, Mac, Apple devices, Android devices, Nook; Chromebook compatibility coming soon (see pg. 24)	Desktop computers, mobile devices and tablets through the web browser (see response on pg. 29)	Windows, Mac, Chromebooks, Apple devices, Android devices (see pg. 35)	Device agnostic, with additional features on Apple & Android devices through apps. (see pg. 41)	Windows, Mac, mobile devices and tablets through the web browser. Flash sometimes required (see pg. 45)	Device agnostic	Works on anything with internet connection (see response on pg. 56)
Browser compatibility	No browser version currently available; will be available next school year (see pg. 25)	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE (see pg. 35)	Any	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE. Flash sometimes required (see pg. 46)	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE, and more (see pg. 52)	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE, and more (see pg. 56)
What are the options for authenticating users?	Library system barcode, Student information system, Barcode prefix	IP address	IP address, Student information system, Library system barcode (see pg. 36)	IP address, password	IP address, student information system, more (see pg. 47)	Library system barcode, Student information system	IP address, Library system barcode, Student information system, more (see pg. 57)

Multi-district or statewide projects

Information about existing multi-district projects in other states

Although ebooks may seem to be ubiquitous in the library landscape, our research finds that large, multi-district ebook collections for school libraries are rare and of those that do exist almost all are in their infancy in terms of development and structure. Of the four multi-district projects we identified, one project, the AEA Digital Library in IA, is fully functional. Two projects, the SELS School eContent Project in Minnesota, and the WEBooks project in New York are in the pilot phase. Booklynx in Rhode Island is defunct. These projects were identified via a variety of sources including media specialists, journal articles and other media as well as networking. Each has a unique infrastructure, funding model and selection process, which are described below

AEA Digital Library is a project of the Iowa Area Education Agencies (AEA). The library serves k12 school districts in nine regions across Iowa and began as a pilot project with one AEA in 2011. The pilot consisted of two collections, one for elementary students and one for secondary students, with a total of approximately 400 titles. Follett was the ebook vendor used for the pilot and a committee of media specialists created the opening day collections. Since the pilot, the AEA Digital Library has switched the primary ebook vendor to Mackin and each AEA manages and selects for its own unique collection. Although each AEA maintains a core collection of titles, school districts have the ability to add titles to their region's collection. The state of IA provides the primary source of funding for the collections in the form of a lump sum that is divided among the nine participating agencies. In addition to ebooks, the AEA's provide access to streaming video, magazines, newspapers, music, clip art and software training. <https://www.aeadigitallibrary.org/>

WEBooks is an ebook project maintained by the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP) in New York State. The GVEP is one of 37 Boards of Cooperative Educational Service (BOCES) that serve all but 9 school districts in New York. The vast majority of BOCES including GVEP serve rural and underfunded school districts. WEBooks began in 2013 and has 20 of 22 school districts in the GVEP participating. The collection has 300 titles and Mackin is the content provider. Chris Harris is the project manager and the architect of the funding model which asked libraries to redirect 10% of their materials budget (approximately 10% of \$6.25 per student) to a collection fund. The philosophy behind WEBooks is that it is much more cost effective for small rural districts to cooperatively purchase ebooks than to have each district purchase a copy on their own. Every participating district is entitled to a vote or pledge towards a title being considered for purchase, a process that allows media specialists at individual districts to retain their local control over selection. WEBooks is still active but the collection is not currently being cultivated. Mr. Harris is currently pursuing pricing advocacy with publishers for small districts using WEBooks as a prototype. <http://www.gvlibraries.org/>

SELS School eContent Project is a newly formed ebook project by the Southeast Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) Consortium in southeastern Minnesota. K12 school districts in eleven counties are participating in a 3 year pilot project collection that began in 2014. Initial funding for the project came from a \$39,000 LSTA grant. A committee of media specialists and teachers from the participating districts did the selection of the initial 1,800 titles in the collection. Several SELCO staff members serve as project managers and SELCO also serves as the fiscal agent. Mackin provides the platform and content for this project. Long-term funding will come from the participants paying an initial base fee of \$999 per district, which will give all participating districts access to the 1800 titles in the collection. An annual content fee of \$4.50 per student for SELCO members (\$6.00/student for non SELCO members) will be used to purchase additional content. This project is actively recruiting participants and committee members will reconvene in January 2015 to discuss next steps. <http://www.selco.info/library-committees/sels-school-econtent-committee/>

Booklynx was an ebook project through the Rhode Island Library Network for Kids (RILINK). The project included 29 school districts in Rhode Island and was an attempt at building an ebook collection entirely through crowd-sourcing donations. The project had a \$10,000 goal and used a Follett program to collect donations. The donation period closed November 30, 2014 and raised only \$1100. <http://guides.rilink.org/home>

Although no multi-district collection has been in existence long enough to determine its viability for long term success, there are characteristics of all three existing projects that should be considered when thinking about a multi-district ebook project in Wisconsin. WEBooks and the SELS School eContent Project share similarities in the collection focus and district autonomy:

- Input on selection of core titles from all stakeholders.
- Voluntary participation in the collection.

The AEA Digital Library offers the following:

- A source of long-term funding to help sustain the collection.
- The flexibility to allow districts to supplement the multi-district shared collection with self-purchased titles.

All three projects share:

- A single vendor's platform.
- Dedicated project managers and fiscal agent.

Elements of a multi-district or statewide project

Reflecting on the information gathered through the survey of school media specialists, the survey of vendors, and an investigation into other multi-district projects from around the country, some elements that would ideally be present in any multi-district or statewide project in Wisconsin can be identified:

Participation in decision making by those funding the project

To sustain a multi-district or statewide project, it is important that those funding the project have a say in decisions about the project and collection. A governance structure should be developed that allows for this participation while keeping processes as flexible and efficient as possible. Depending on the size and scope of the project, the following bodies may be appropriate:

- **An advisory board:** This board would oversee the work of the workgroups and committees, develop operating procedures for the project, make the initial selection of the vendor(s) for the project, evaluate the vendor(s) as appropriate, and make other decisions related to budget and policy. In a smaller project, this board could also fulfill all function of other bodies as described below. Ideally, this board would be elected by all participating districts (or could consist of 1-2 representatives per district in a smaller project). Representatives would have clear term lengths and limits, and could include both library media specialists and curriculum specialists, as appropriate.
- **Collection policy workgroup:** The importance of a well-developed and maintained collection policy (see below) warrants a workgroup that would develop the initial policy and maintain it. The members of this workgroup would be library media specialists from participating districts who have a concentration on collection development. Like the advisory board, the representatives could be elected or appointed, and term lengths and limits are recommended.

- Selection committee: A standing committee would act as selectors for the collection, including the opening day collection. The committee would consist of library media specialists and curriculum specialists, elected or appointed as the size of the project warrants. The committee would also develop and maintain procedures for selection. Like the advisory board, the representatives could be elected or appointed, and term lengths and limits are recommended.

Provision of a diverse collection of materials

Based on the feedback from the survey of school media specialists, the movement of school districts toward common core, and the trend toward non-fiction reading at the elementary level along with middle grade, classic literature, and young adult fiction at the middle school and high school levels (and easy readers at all levels)¹, it is recommended that the collection be a diverse collection that includes fiction and non-fiction, mirroring traditional print reference as well as circulating collections. To give the collection a narrower scope to begin, a focus on non-fiction titles and fiction titles that can be used by many students at one time is suggested.

Supplementation of the shared collection with materials for individual districts

Individual schools or districts should be able to supplement the core collection by purchasing titles for use by their school community. This supplementation can provide additional copies for high use titles and can also allow for selection of materials of interest to the local community.

A clear collection policy

Because the collection will need to meet the needs of multiple districts, a clear collection policy should be developed to guide the purchasing of materials. Without a clear policy, the scope of the collection could easily expand and move away from its original intent, creating a collection that is not meeting the needs of all districts involved and weakening the collection as the available dollars of the project are spread among more areas of content.

Clear and efficient procedures for selection

While it is important that districts participating in a multi-district project have input into the selection of materials, it is also critical that the selection process is efficient. Providing a mechanism for participating districts to make recommendations to a selection committee while not relying on these recommendations as the source of all selection can meet both of these goals. Ideally, the selection process would result in the purchasing of recommendations from participating districts, items from lists of titles of interest from vendor(s), and known items of interest from selection committee members.

Flexibility in acquisition models

It is important that the vendors offer a range of acquisition models (individual copies, simultaneous use, content that expires, etc.) that allow for multi-student use as well as individual student use. The vendor should have a history of adding new models as the use case warrants them and the publishers allow them. Models should be evaluated for cost-effectiveness and the most cost-effective models should be used for adding content to the collection as much as possible.

A single interface for accessing ebook and print materials

In the survey of school media specialists, 72% of those surveyed felt that having a single interface for all ebooks and print materials for searching, determining if a title is available, and seeing current circulation information in a single interface was “very important” (with another 24% indicating it was “somewhat important”). With some

¹ “2014 Survey of Ebook Usage in U.S. School (K-12) Libraries.” *School Library Journal*. Spring 2014: 49.

ebook vendors, users can also circulate ebooks without leaving the library catalog interface. The library catalog would then fill the role of discovery and use of ebooks. Energy should be spent on utilizing the catalog for as much functionality as possible, rather than relying on the vendor platform, which will allow more flexibility in acquiring titles from multiple vendors. While the vendors may not have this type of interoperability at this time, it would ideally be a goal of any multi-district or statewide collection.

A clear understanding of the technology environment of participants

Part of the success of school ebook projects is dependent upon the devices that students have available to them, the compatibility of these devices with available ebooks, and the robustness of the underlying infrastructure to provide appropriate broadband for downloading and utilizing e-content. While it is outside the scope of this project to determine the technology environment of districts in the state, it is important that this information be collected for participants in multi-district projects and that any barriers the environment may cause for a district are identified and mitigated before the project begins.

A well-developed plan and support for training and education

In order to ensure success of the project, school media specialists would need to be educated about the project, the scope and purpose of the collection, and how they can supplement the collection with content at the district and/or school level. A plan to provide this type of education to the school media specialists would need to be in place and provision of the training would need to be funded. While the amount of training needed on the ebook vendor platform should be lessened if the catalog can be used for discovery, a train-the-trainer model should be employed to allow school media specialists to become the experts about the project and product and to then share that information within their school district as appropriate. A blend of face-to-face and online training is recommended. A Google community could be used for additional information about the project and ongoing support and training related to all elements of the project.

Regular evaluation of the project and the collection

It is important that the project and collection be regularly evaluated to make sure that the collection is meeting the needs of participants and is being developed in the most cost-effective way possible. An evaluation should include:

- Annual compilation and review of usage statistics including circulation by format and subject, and cost per circulation for the collection, including cost per circulation for different acquisition models. The collection strategy could be modified (within the collection policy) based on usage and development of marketplace.
- Annual survey of school media specialists to assess satisfaction with the project and to determine any concerns.
- An evaluation of the collection policies every two years based on usage statistics and survey results.

A sustainable funding model

Before a multi-district or statewide ebook project is undertaken, a sustainable funding model should be developed. While a pilot project with a one-time pool of funds is a fine way to start a project, it is important that all participants understand how the project would be funded going forward, assuming the pilot is successful. A clear formula, based on factors agreed to by the participants, will help participants feel that the project is funded in a fair and equitable way. While having an occasional opportunity for participants to make a voluntary additional contribution, this type of contribution should not be the only source of funding for the maintenance of the project.

Project management

For a project to successfully contain all of the elements described above, project management is key. The project managers would provide the coordination necessary to keep the project running smoothly. Specifically, project managers would:

- Manage all aspects of the governance structure (setting and facilitating meetings, creating agendas, keeping notes, etc.)
- Act as the liaison to the vendor(s).
- Place orders.
- Keep statistics and manage the evaluation processes.
- Communicate information about the project and collection to the participating districts.
- Coordinate and provide training; manage the Google community or other community-contributed support mechanisms.
- Assist districts in technical aspects of the integration of the catalog and ebook collections; provide a structure to share this information project-wide.
- Answer questions from the school media specialists.
- Undertake special projects as requested to further develop the project or collection.

Consideration of a statewide project in Wisconsin

While an individual district or multi-district approach can be used to provide ebooks to Wisconsin students, there is some precedent and information to suggest that a statewide project could be an appropriate means for providing ebooks to all districts in the state.

Wisconsin currently has two very successful statewide projects for library electronic content:

BadgerLink

BadgerLink provides access to 8,000 magazines and journals, 1 billion newspaper articles, 18,000 videos and video clips, 1 million images, 3,100 songs and sound effects, millions of genealogical records, and much more. The project began in July 1998 and is supported by an annual \$2.2 million from the Universal Service Fund with partial support from federal LSTA grant funding. If libraries around the state were to purchase this same content on their own, the cost would be over \$75 million per year. The content available through BadgerLink is well used. In 2011, there were 52 million sessions; in 2013, this number had grown to 79 million.

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium's "Wisconsin Digital Library"

By working collaboratively, the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) provides a collection of over 43,500 titles representing ebooks, digital audiobooks, music, and video to every citizen in Wisconsin. The \$1,000,000 funding for the collection is provided by the 17 public library systems and many of the public libraries in the state. This combination of state and local dollars, along with some federal LSTA grant funding, has allowed this consortium to create a robust collection that no single library could support on its own.

A recent report by Library Journal² stated that the ebook collections of medium sized libraries around the country have an average of 10,434 titles. In Wisconsin, even the smallest library has access to over 28,500 ebook titles, a collection that would be out of reach for most libraries in the state if they had to purchase the content on their own. Many of the public library systems supplement the statewide collection with additional titles available only to the libraries in their region. This multi-tiered approach ensures access to a core collection

² "Ebook Usage in U.S. Public Libraries" Library Journal, 2014.

for all citizens in the state, while allowing additional funding at the regional level to enhance the collection with content that is selected locally.

The collection is very well used by Wisconsin citizens. Since the beginning (April 2004) to December 31, 2014, there have been 7,545,902 checkouts, with 4,867,953 checkouts on ebook titles alone.

In addition, having a single collection allows for greater efficiency in the management of the project. Having a single platform for the collection (rather than many platforms around the state) streamlines support and training.

The success of BadgerLink and the Wisconsin Digital Library show the interest and the ability of Wisconsin libraries to collaborate and to embrace statewide projects for digital content. The Wisconsin Digital Library also illustrates the power of combining resources from federal, state, regional, and local levels to provide ebook content in a statewide, consortial context.

There is the potential for local funding for a statewide school ebook collection in Wisconsin. According to data collected from three of the eight vendors surveyed, \$1.59 million was spent by Wisconsin school districts for ebooks in the 2013/14 school year. If some of these funds (assuming that some districts would want to maintain their existing programs for ebooks) were redirected toward a statewide collection, the amount of money available could fund a small core collection along with a base level of project management.

As described above, one of the factors that has led to the success of the WPLC Digital Library is the combination of public library system and local public library funding. A similar model should be considered for a school ebook collection. The Department of Public Instruction's 2015-2017 Biennial Budget request, submitted by State Superintendent Evers, proposes \$1,000,000 in FY17 for matching grants e-publications for state libraries. These matching funds would provide an opportunity to build a more robust collection and to provide the human capital necessary to focus not just on the present but to build a scalable, innovative, efficient, and sustainable project that would be a model for others.

Both BadgerLink and the WPLC Digital Library have illustrated that sharing digital resources at a statewide level can provide an equity of access to all users, regardless of the size of the community or library. A statewide school ebook project can provide this same equity of access, which is particularly important due to the current acquisition models in use by most ebook vendors and publishers. Currently, the most commonly used model is a "cost per title" model, which means that ebooks cost the same per title, regardless of how many times the title is used. This results in small districts paying significantly more for ebooks if viewed as a "per student" cost. With the average elementary school enrollment in Wisconsin at 367 and the average secondary school enrollment at 484 students, the cost per student for ebooks will not be nearly as favorable for Wisconsin districts purchasing individually as they will be purchasing collectively as a state. By pooling resources, a statewide project may also have more power to advocate for different acquisition models that are more equitable for all schools, not only in Wisconsin but across the country.

In summary, a statewide project for ebooks for schools could provide equitable access to all students in the state. BadgerLink and the WPLC Digital Library have proven that these types of shared collections of electronic content are feasible, sustainable, cost-effective, and popular. The combination of local funds and state funds (through the FY17 budget request) would provide the funding necessary to begin a sustainable core collection.

Appendix A: Open-ended question responses from school media specialists survey

Below are the open-ended question responses for all questions included in the report from the survey of school media specialists. The responses have not been edited for grammar or spelling. Comments about specific vendors have been removed.

Why are you not currently providing access to ebooks? (please choose all that apply)

working on it
Administration doesn't want another device besides iPads.
Management issue due to shared staff.
We are a CESA library and haven't figured out exactly how to do this effectively for all the school districts we serve.
I wouldn't say no interest, but LITTLE interest from staff and students.
Other resources available from our Public Library
I don't know. I'm new this year and will be starting an ebook program.
Took a year to figure it out, but we will start within a week

How are you, staff, and students using the library ebooks in your district? (check all that apply)

station in the classroom
still learning, they aren't being used as of yet
our subscription is frequently used during indoor recess
use for staff checkout
REFERENCE with print
Use unlimited copies for reference in some classes.
Use non-fiction for research instead of print books.
Reference materials via {vendor name}

What features do you especially like about your current ebook products? (check all that apply)

Unlimited, simultaneous access of reference.
Not all content is reasonably priced, but some is.
not sure, still learning
negative comment - at this time, all the book jackets show for the "district" collection, this is a problem for middle school students, they should not be seeing some of the jackets as they are inappropriate, titles can be set so that middle school students can't checkout certain YA and Adult books but they still see the jacket cover
A pay per use model would be outstanding. I'd love to be able to load all titles for students and only pay for the ones they use. We have low usage right now, so I feel like I am paying a ton per checkout.
A way to get our foot in the door
I am amazed and disappointed at some of the prices publishers are requiring for popular fiction ebooks. It is hard for me to justify spending \$30.00 for on ebook. I am not a fan of the 12 monthly access option either that some publishers are going to.
Fiction pricing can be very high and at times, we have to make some hard choices between titles we own or rent for 1 year or 26 checkouts
Unlimited content is available on {some vendors and not others}. I would love it on fiction titles. Would like to see more non-fiction content available.

Have you changed or are you planning to change how you collect print based on your e-book purchasing? (please choose all that apply)

I have had ebooks since 2006 and find that the students 90% of students still choose print.
Just not sure yet as we just went 1:1 so dealing with how to get books into kids hands or e-books!
Our ebooks do not go out as much as we would like so we have put a hold on purchasing more.
Also audiobooks
We have surveyed our students and at this point 67% prefer print over electronic books
Depending upon need and availability determines if only ebook or only print or both are purchased: still need good amount and quality of both
In the planning stages to consider what might work best to reduce
We hope to add classroom sets of titles, but struggle with licensing and funding.
District is moving to 1-1 for next year - greater ability for students to access information via computers.

What challenges are you encountering in using ebooks in your district? (Please check all that apply.)

{It} has been an issue for me to find the time to promote it.
Hard for me to manage devices (just one more thing) and only available on NOOKs, not other devices
Small schools are at a disadvantage for accessing eBooks and audiobooks.
Wireless capacity in the building/classroom is sometimes a problem.
I use {vendor name} and HATE that they started offering titles as only 12 or 24 month purchases, not forever like they did a year or so ago. I don't just want a book for a year or two. I want it for always!
{vendor name} is new this year. We launched in the High School the end of May 2014, however, it was only through an email because of time constraints. This fall have started promoting it more: signage, emails to students and staff, demonstrations in classe. Have had some usage, still developing outreach.
Have just started using {vendor name} at the High School. Had some usage over the summer however have just started going to classrooms to push it more. Have had some success, however, too early to access. Staff has liked it for their pleasure reading.
Students prefer print
Kids don't seem interested in ebooks - even with the most popular titles in the library.
Middle School students prefer reading print books. I am doing a lot of promoting of ebooks but the interested isn't there. We have 1:1 laptops in our building but I think kids don't want to read a book on their laptop after being on them doing their work from their classes. Students need to sign a special permission slip to be able to bring their own Nook, Kindle, etc. to read on. Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom. I have print directions and online directions available to students on how to download to their own devices so they can do this. One thing I have noticed, though, is that my audiobooks that I have {vendor name} are getting checked out a lot!!! They like this access. We have a large playaway collection also and it is very popular with the students. {information about specific vendor} I certainly do not think that ebooks will replace print books.
I am working this year on promotion of ebooks and getting the word out. I had {vendor name} last year, but discontinued. Multiple platforms were confusing.
{information about a specific vendor} We have no devices to lend so the use will be limited to students who have Internet and a suitable device at home. Also I feel like I'm buying a lot of titles three times (print, ebook, and audiobook). Thus the collection overall becomes less diverse.
Though this may relate to what publishing companies expect, it would be nice to be able to have more unlimited use of popular fiction.
Students are not eager to use electronic formats at my school. The popular titles always have a waiting list which is a turn off to both students and staff.
A lot of fiction titles that teachers read as class assignments are not available as eBooks. For example The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton.
App for accessing ebooks has serious issues with use. Does not work very consistently.
Concern about too much screen time for younger students.
The biggest challenge is that many students want to use audiobooks, but they require a download (unlike eBooks) and students aren't allowed to download at school
Not able to download to a device, it is cloud based.

What other features would you want in your perfect ebook scenario?

inexpensive, devices are affordable
Enough devices for all students to access ebooks on a semi daily basis.
Be able to read in browsers without having to scroll sideways to see each page. Be able to see a whole page of text at a time in the browser. Usable on Chrome, Safari, and Explorer browsers.
A consistent platform from the vender. Constant changes in the interface/name of program. app, etc. are difficult to manage.
Text read-aloud, searching options within the book
Some eBooks are now for a limited time, like 12 months. I do not purchase any eBooks like this.
It needs to be on thier device
Not extremely expensive
I can't think of any.
I need it to be affordable for my small district. I don't like to pay per checkout because students might not actually read it.
out biggest issue is getting the records into our catalog
That interactive books would not require flash, so they could be viewed on an Ipad.
The title can be downloaded onto more than one library owned device at a time - otherwise it is too difficult to make sure the ONE device needed is not checked out.
Lower prices
Popular titles are immediatly available; all titles in a series are available.
If all popular and best seller titles could become available as soon as they are released.
Wide selection of titles
One platform that I can easily set up to allow different books to be seen at different schools instead of juggling a separate platform for each school.
I sort of like the pay-per-use scenario. I think we could make more titles available for students if we did not have to BUY every title we want to offer.
forever subscription - I have noticed that some books you "buy" for two years only...
Price of the ebook is the same as/or less than the price of the print book.
They could be categorized by genre, grade level, and/or interest level. Or any other categorization that may be wanted.
I want to pay for a title once and own it forever. Reading and listening need to be available offline (i.e. Locally downloaded) not just streamed or in a web browser. {vendor information}
Cheaper prices!
Text snooks with matching audio.
Clear instructions on how to download and read offline for all devices.
Special ed students would like the ability, especially for non-fiction, to have the book read to them.
The ability to renew a book once.
Availability of limited purchase for books (e.g. 17 checkouts)
I would like all of my eBooks from any vendor to work on any device.
Most important: students can load them on their own devices, eReaders or tablets of phones.
I would want a mobile device that I could check out to students that would have the book/s on it that they are wanting to read without the distraction of readily available games or other non-reading activities.
I would like a system like {vendor name} but it is too expensive for my district
DRM-free audiobooks, total access to those with special needs (assistive tech), opportunities for unlimited copies of popular titles, consistent and persistent licensing structures across publishers.
Price of ebooks should be comparable to print version
Tutorials, support materials for library professional are important
Once eBooks are purchased you have them forever, none of the 1 years or so many checkouts.
The ability that it can be downloaded to a device.

Anything else you'd like to tell us?

<p>We started with a very small ebook/eReader program, and in the past 3 years, it has really exploded and has gone very well. We will always want and need print books, but our ebook program has opened up another avenue for reading for a lot of students who may not be the typical library "frequent flyers" population.</p>
<p>It would be nice to have an optional feature {vendor information removed} with audio and eBooks for all levels.</p>
<p>The school where I work is located in a very wealthy community. I don't get requests for popular fiction and nonfiction in ebook format. I wonder if this is because parents simply buy what their children request. I have also done informal interviews asking my regular library visitors if they prefer reading novels in print or electronic form. Most say they prefer books. I was very surprised by this. I should really expand this to questioning students who don't visit the library and see what they prefer. We are also a school that does not have a 1:1 initiative so this could also play a role. We do not have a building-wide plan to promote recreational reading. Many of my students are over-scheduled and rarely have a minute free to read. This is why I'm limiting my responses to eReference. I am assuming the books are available as unlimited, simultaneous use.</p>
<p>I don't like that some vendors only allow purchase of books for a 1-year subscription. I don't believe I should have to pay for a book over and over again.</p>
<p>The perfect situation would have an easy interface AND a great selection of fiction and nonfiction titles.</p>
<p>From library media specialists in my area, ebooks really are not "hot" in the schools for checkout from libraries. Students would rather have print copy books rather than ebooks. When offered an ebook of the same title as a print copy of the book, they will always want the book and will wait for the book (i.e. ask for it to be reserved for them) rather than go online for the ebook.</p>
<p>My experience may not be typical because I work in a 1:1 iPad school.</p>
<p>What device would work the best for all ebooks?</p>
<p>Any platform you create needs to work within popular school library programs...</p>
<p>I really like the look and "feel" of {vendor name}, however, it is a struggle to promote any of the ebooks. Many students, especially the "readers" seem to still prefer to read their fiction in print.</p>
<p>Statewide access would be great.</p>
<p>1. Concerns about management issues with a 60% librarian. 2. Ability to maintain the program with limited/reduced funding. 3. Resources and/or advice availability</p>
<p>It's a learning experience. I'm much more comfortable with regular books over e-books.</p>
<p>{vendor-specific comment}</p> <p>And, I do not lend my Kindles to students for use outside of school. Finally, I'm finding that there are more administrative expectations that we provide digital and print materials, but I am frustrated because administration is also taking more and more of our CSF monies to purchase equipment for purposes other than for use in the library or for library purposes.</p>
<p>Purchasing ebooks is incredibly confusing and the models keep changing. It's very frustrating to feel like you need to be embracing this "new normal" but then not knowing how to do it, how to promote it, or if students really want it. I still feel the lower grade levels are better off with a print book in their hand. Even at the upper grade levels, studies show greater retention of learning with a print book and many of my students say they prefer a "real" book.</p>
<p>Concerned about how simultaneous use books will affect purchases using Common School Fund. In a way it may muddy the line between library and curriculum.</p>
<p>As an alternative to buying content I would potentially be interested in renting access to an ever changing strong unlimited access collection.</p>
<p>Students do enjoy using eBooks!</p>
<p>More publishers need to accept the fact that libraries have the right to purchase eBooks. There is still a stigma of usage attached wherein the book evaporates after 10 checkouts for example. A paper copy on a library shelf lasts longer than 10 checkouts. An eBook should not have to be purchased again after ONLY a minimum of circulations.</p>
<p>Thanks for taking some initiative on this important issue.</p>
<p>Providing access to ONE platform with ONE login is crucial to student use, especially at the elementary level. We would also like the platform to accept ebook purchases from outside vendors. Easy downloads regardless of the device is important too.</p>
<p>Publishers who restrict numbers of checkouts are costing us a lot of money. Users could be checking those books out just to test the system, yet each click counts as a checkout. Most publishers are slow to commit to electronic formats, but textbook publishers are much, much worse. With the high price of print textbooks and ubiquity of OER, I suspect we buy textbooks these days simply because we always have.</p>

Appendix B: Complete profiles of vendor responses

Baker & Taylor

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

9 Wisconsin school districts/libraries purchased ebooks from this vendor.

\$15,000 was spent by those purchasing ebooks.

Survey results:

1 libraries reported using this vendor.

4.0 (with 4 being “very satisfied”) was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

None of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: \$15.00-\$18.00

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: \$50.00

Acquisition models

X	Acquire individual copies that never expire. <i>When utilizing our purchasing tool, TitleSource360, a school can search on attributes and look for titles with a particular model. Because the model is publisher specific, all types of content may be available with this model. There are 500,000 titles available with this model.</i>
X	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations. <i>Titles can be aquired that have an expiration after a certain number of circulations. There are 26 and 52 Circulation options. When utilizing our purchasing tool, TitleSource360, a school can search on attributes and look for titles with a particular model. There are all types of content with this model as it is publisher specific. We have 27,000 titles available in this purchasing model.</i>
X	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Titles can be aquired that have an expiration after a certain length of time. When utilizing our purchasing tool, TitleSource360, a school can search on attributes and look for titles with a particular model. There are all types of content with this model as it is publisher specific. We have close to 20,000 titles available in this purchasing model.</i>

Baker & Taylor, Acquisition models (continued)

X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire. <i>Titles can be aquired that have simultaneous use and do not expire. When utiliziing our purchasing tool, TitleSource360, a school can search on attributes and look for titles with a particular model. There are all types of content with this model as it is publisher specific. However, most of this is smaller non-fiction school publishers. We have over 20,000 titles available and have several publishers that we have recently added that will double this number.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Titles can be aquired that have simultaneous use and do not expire. When utiliziing our purchasing tool, TitleSource360, a school can search on attributes and look for titles with a particular model. Publishers are just starting to look at this model, we will start seeing these titles added as options moving forward. We have no titles that are simultaneous use that expire from publishers at this time, but do have the ability to offer. Right now the simultaneous use titles are perpetual and do not expire.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire. <i>Titles can be aquired in a package. We offer different packages from publishers or groups of publishers. It depends on the school needs and the collection what the number of titles would be in the collection. It could be a few titles based on a subject area or a package of 1,500 titles that would be a starter collection for a school. We have several collection options that we can offer to schools. The collection options change over time and are also customized based on school needs. We have collection development specialists that put together packages that will work for a school.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time. <i>We do not have any of these that we are offering at this time. However, we have the ability to offer this model.</i></p>
<p>Other: <i>We do have publishers that are starting to provide us with book rental models, 3 mo, 6 mo, 9 mo options (for classroom use) at a lower price point for mutiple students reading titles. There are some titles that do have a circulation limit or time - ie 52 circulations or 2 years whichever happens first.</i></p>	

Ownership & Sharing

<p>Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?</p>	<p>Yes. If the title is purchased and in the school repository, it would remain in the school repository. However, the title would no longer be available for sale from the distributor. So, new customers would not be able to purchase the same book.</p>
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Baker & Taylor, Ownership & Sharing (continued)

<p>Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?</p>	<p>The correct answer to this question is not a black / white yes or no. I would say this is up to the school and / or the publisher. It is not up to the distributor. If you terminate a contract with a vendor then the short answer is that no, you no longer have access to those titles. Because they are on that particular platform and the rights were sold to use on that platform. What can be done is that you can request from the publisher that these titles be moved to a different platform. The publishers may allow this to happen, they may not. We have done this with customers and we will help the school submit what needs to be submitted, help them with the requests. We have been successful with this, and so have others. But, there are some publishers that will not allow the content to be moved. If you put in a contract that this must be guaranteed, there shouldn't be anyone that could guarantee this. could happen across the board for every title.</p>
<p>Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>We do not have any language that uses the term "ownership" of content. The language around this that I could find (on a short timeline - trying to get this for you by Friday) is authorized use of content. We do have in our agreements B&T MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES AS TO WHETHER B&T'S SUPPLIERS WOULD ALLOW ANY SUCH LICENSE FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT. FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, NO LICENSE FOR ECONTENT CONVERTED FOR USE WITH BLIO WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF SUCH THIRD PARTY VENDOR.</i></p>	
<p>Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?</p>	<p>We do allow for shared collections. These can be within a district or multi-district. A district or consortia can have either shared collections for multi-districts, a single district, individual school collections or a mixture of the above. When a student logs into a shared collection, they will see one collection of books and not know where the books are housed or which collection they belong to. The main restriction is with simultaneous use titles. The rights to simultaneous use titles do state that they are purchased at the building level. Simultaneous use titles can be used in a shared collection, but there must be one copy in the collection representing each school accessing the collection. We do have to be careful of the licensing of each title, but we even have public libraries sharing collections with schools in a shared model.</p>

Baker & Taylor (continued)

Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK	X	
K-2	X	
3-5	X	
6-8	X	
9-12	X	X
Fiction	X	X
Non-Fiction	X	X

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure	X				
Art	X		History	X	
Award Winners	X		Historical Fiction	X	X
Battle of the Books	X		Juvenile Fiction	X	
Beginning Readers	X		Math	X	
Biographies	X		Middle Readers	X	
Classroom Sets	X		Mysteries	X	X
Early Readers	X		Picture Books	X	
ESL/Language Learning	X		Politics and Government	X	
General Fiction	X	X	Pro/Con	X	
General Nonfiction	X	X	Professional Develop	X	
Geography and Culture	X		Reference	X	
Graphic Novels	X		Science	X	
Health and Wellness	X		Young Adult	X	X

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	iPad, Mac, Android tablet, Windows PC, Windows Tablet, Kindle Fire, Nook. For Chromebooks we have our Android application submitted for use on Chrome, we will be Chrome compatible.
Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:	iPad, Mac, Android tablet, Windows PC, Windows Tablet, Kindle Fire, Nook.

Baker & Taylor, Features (continued)

Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.	The title can be downloaded onto any tablet that is used by the student and the student is logged in. The student can download the book when they login on multiple devices when the title expires it will expire on all devices.
Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:	We are developing a web based browser version. There are many limitations to the browser based reader, but there are districts that are wanting to have this feature. This will be available for next school year.
MARC record are available for...	Yes.MARC records are available for all titles.
When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...	Titles are delivered to the platform within 24 hours.
The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...	Reservations can be made so books can be reserved by teachers for students to ensure access when they need access. Our BLIO reader is ADA compliant to provide access to special needs students.
Other special features include...	We have a classroom reader available that provides titles with embedded assessments and delivers real time data to teachers about students reading. There are currently over 3,000 titles with assessments with hundreds of new titles being added monthly. Our assessment platform has won awards and was recently featured as one of the top 100 products for education by District Administrator.
Monthly usage reports are available by...	School, Subject, Format, and Student. Reports available include: Inventory List, Circulation List, Hold Report, Inventory Circulation By Month, Top 10 Circulating Subjects during a specified time, User Review Report, New Users By Month, Total Users By Month, New Users By Month Categories - Total Quantity, Member Quantity, Parent Quantity, Total Checkouts, Blio Checkouts, ePub Checkouts, PDF Checkouts, Acoustik Checkouts, Turns, Total Holds, Reserves With the assessment reader reports include information about book usage.
Users can be authenticated by...	Using the student information system, Using the library system barcode, and Prefix authentication
Holds can be placed on popular titles	Yes
Titles can be renewed	Yes
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	Yes
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	By email, student can see hold is available when they log in.
Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	Yes

Baker & Taylor, Features (continued)

Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	We do have reviews, cover art, how many are available, ability to put on hold, student reviews.
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	Yes, if the publisher allows the content to be transferred then this can be added to the platform.
Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	Yes. This is set up by the administrator and can be turned on or off and also can have an approval process in place.
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes. We just recently added 10,000 new Spanish titles in November. We consistently add new titles.
Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	No
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	Yes. We integrate with all major circulation platforms including Destiny. API integrations available with prefix and file upload methods. SIS integration is also available. 856 Tags do allow for search of eContent Discovery within other circulation platforms.

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Titles, Subject, Series, Genre, Grade Level, Interest Level, Reading Level
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre, Grade Level, Interest Level, Format, Staff Picks/Suggestions
The full-text of a single title can be searched	No
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	No

Support, Training, and Promotion

Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product	There is webinar training provided as well as extensive users guides. On-site training is an option. We work with each district on what their training needs are and come up with a plan to make sure that their rollout is successful.
What other help is available for using your product?	Phone, chat and email support are provided.
Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.	We provide regular email newsletters to inform of updates, issues, new releases and new features.
How frequently are updates made to the platform?	We are consistently making updates to the platform. We will have new releases typically once per quarter.
Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.	CustomReach, a dynamic marketing program designed to support libraries and students, will allow you to create materials such as bookmarks and posters, and provides helpful "How To" information to assist in the learning curve associated with promoting e-books to students and parents.

EBSCO

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

Information not available

Survey results:

2 libraries reported using this vendor.

3.0 (with 4 being “very satisfied”) was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

100% of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: \$21.00

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: \$34.00

Acquisition models

X	Acquire individual copies that never expire. <i>Titles acquired with this model have perpetual access and include over 600,000 titles in all subject areas, publications years, fiction and nonfiction.</i>
X	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations. <i>These titles have a Concurrent Access Model (325, 365 days) and include over 200,000 titles in all subject areas, publications years, fiction and nonfiction.</i>
X	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time. <i>These titles have a Loan model (1, 7, 14, 28 days) and include over 450,000 titles in all subject areas, publications years, fiction and nonfiction.</i>
X	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire. <i>These titles have a 1BUU model and include over 350,000 titles in all subject areas, publications years, fiction and nonfiction.</i>
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time.
X	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire. <i>This model is available through all subscription collections. The number of titles available is collection dependent.</i>
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time.
Other: <i>Titles can also be purchasing using a Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA) model (1B1U, 1B3U, 1BUU). This model includes over 475,000 titles in all subject areas, publications years, fiction and nonfiction.</i>	

EBSCO (continued)

Ownership & Sharing

Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?	Yes. If a customer purchases a title perpetually, they will have access even if the title is removed from the platform.
Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?	Yes. If a customer purchases a title perpetually, they will have access even if the title is removed from the platform.
Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>No information was provided</i>	
Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?	Yes. Consortia deals/pricing would be applied. The ability to create local collections within the shared collection is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK		
K-2	X	
3-5	X	X
6-8	X	X
9-12	X	X
Fiction	X	
Non-Fiction	X	X

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure	X				
Art	X		History	X	X
Award Winners	X		Historical Fiction	X	
Battle of the Books			Juvenile Fiction	X	
Beginning Readers	X		Math	X	
Biographies	X		Middle Readers	X	
Classroom Sets			Mysteries	X	
Early Readers	X		Picture Books		
ESL/Language Learning	X		Politics and Government	X	X
General Fiction	X		Pro/Con		
General Nonfiction	X	X	Professional Develop	X	
Geography and Culture	X		Reference	X	X
Graphic Novels	X		Science	X	X
Health and Wellness	X	X	Young Adult	X	

EBSCO (continued)

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	Desktop Mobile Web Browser Tablets (Web Browser)
Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:	Yes, on Apple and Android devices and the Kindle Fire. All Adobe Digital Editions compatible devices.
Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.	This is dependent on the number of copies/leases that the library owns. For instance, if the library has a 1B3U copy than the title can be downloaded three times at once.
Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:	Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer
MARC record are available for...	Yes. Once log in information is provided, MARC records should be available within a couple of business days.
When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...	New titles are constantly added to our collection and available immediately to libraries.
The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...	For courses, the 1BUU model gives all students the ability to access the same title at any given time. Each title is easily searchable to provide simple and seamless access to desired content.
Other special features include...	We offer the ability to copy, paste, save, print, highlight (once downloaded) and take notes. This criteria is publisher dependent, but is indicated.
Monthly usage reports are available by...	School, Subject, Format. Reports include number and length of sessions, searches, total full text requests, PDF full text requests, HTML Full Text Requests, Abstract Requests, and more.
Users can be authenticated by...	IP address
Holds can be placed on popular titles	Yes
Titles can be renewed	Yes
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	Yes, if publisher allows leasing. Standard lease period is 1, 7, 14, 28 days.
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	By email
Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	No
Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	Cover image
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	No
Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	No
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes

EBSCO, Features (continued)

Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	Yes
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	Not currently, but EBSCO has an API in development.

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Title, Subject, Series, Genre, Reading Level
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre, Format
The full-text of a single title can be searched	Yes
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	Yes

Support, Training, and Promotion

Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product	Our Support page offers videos, tutorials and helpful FAQs to answer customer questions/concerns. On site training is available, if needed.
What other help is available for using your product?	Our Support team is always available for additional questions.
Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.	Our Marketing department will send updates on new releases and features. Notifications are also sent when new content is added to Subscription Collections. Your sales rep can work with support to handle any remaining concerns in a timely manner.
How frequently are updates made to the platform?	Updates are made to the platform frequently, but never without notice to our customers.
Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.	We offer marketing material to help promote eBooks including print outs, cards, posters, and more. We also offer suggestions on how to improve your libraries site, as well as how to promote on social media.

Follett School Solutions

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

Information not available

Survey results:

79 libraries reported using this vendor.

3.1 (with 4 being “very satisfied”) was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

60% of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

Additional comments from the survey about this vendor:

- Follett Shelf has been an issue for me to find the time to promote it.*
- I use Follett and HATE that they started offering titles as only 12 or 24 month purchases, not forever like they did a year or so ago. I don't just want a book for a year or two. I want it for always!*
- One thing I have noticed, though, is that my audiobooks that I have on FollettShelf are getting checked out a lot!!! They like this access.*
- Follett's app based system is not as device neutral as it could be. Won't work on a basic Kindle reader for example. The app tends to be very buggy and sluggish.*
- App for accessing ebooks (Brightwave) has serious issues with use. Does not work very consistently.*
- I have found that the audio books through Follett Shelf are very unpleasant. I'd rather have a book narrated by a real person.*
- I really like Follett and I know they are working hard on keeping up with easier access to many devices. I would like to see more webinars on how to set up other vendor's collections (i.e. Grolier Online, Safari Montage, etc) and have it all in one collection. Follett does not have an easy way to get to some of that info-but they are getting better.*
- Unlimited content is available on Follett non-fiction, but not on Overdrive fiction. I would love it on fiction titles. Would like to see mote non-fiction content available.*

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: Information not available.

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: Information not available.

Follett (continued)

Acquisition models

X	<p>Acquire individual copies that never expire. <i>The vast majority of Follett eBooks and all Follett audiobooks are available for purchase as individual copies with perpetual access licensing. Follett places no limit on the minimum number of copies a school or district must purchase for these 1:1 titles. We offer titles that support all core curriculum subjects, supplemental and professional development items for all grade levels from over 1,900 publishers. Currently we have approximately 57,275 fiction titles and 192,000 non-fiction titles (including 10,000 professional titles). Follett currently offers over 250,000 Follett eBook titles and more than 40,000 Follett audiobook titles under our 1:1 perpetual access model.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations. <i>Follett is currently working on making this model available to our customers early 2015.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Follett has a selection of eBooks available under 12 and 24 month subscription plans. Follett places no limit on the minimum number of copies a school or district must purchase for these 1:1 titles. Our subscription titles are sourced from the top trade publishers, featuring the most highly sought-after fiction and non-fiction content. Follett currently offers 45,000 Follett eBook titles under our 1:1 12 and 24 month access models.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire. <i>Follett offers eBooks with unlimited simultaneous access rights with perpetual access licensing. Follett’s agreement with our publishing partners requires that one copy of an unlimited simultaneous access title be purchased for each site that will have access to the content within a district. We offer unlimited simultaneous access titles that support all core curriculum subjects focused primarily on K-8 from over 115 publishers. Follett currently offers over 50,000 Follett eBook titles under our unlimited simultaneous perpetual access model.</i></p>
	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time.</p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire. <i>Follett offers eBook collections with unlimited simultaneous access rights with perpetual access licensing. Follett’s agreement with our publishing partners requires that one copy of an unlimited simultaneous access title be purchased for each site that will have access to the content within a district. We offer unlimited simultaneous access titles that support all core curriculum subjects focused primarily on K-8 from over 115 publishers. Follett currently offers over 50,000 Follett eBook titles under our unlimited simultaneous perpetual access model. In addition, Follett sells a variety of 3rd party hosted unlimited simultaneous access eBook collections with perpetual access licensing.</i></p>

Follett, Acquisition models (continued)

X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time.</p> <p><i>Follett offers third party hosted eBook collections with unlimited simultaneous access rights with subscription licensing. The licensing of these products of an unlimited simultaneous access title be purchased for each site that will have access to the content within a district. We offer unlimited simultaneous access titles that support all core curriculum subjects focused primarily on K-8 from over 115 publishers. Follett currently offers over 50,000 Follett eBook titles under our unlimited simultaneous perpetual access model.</i></p>
<p>Other: <i>Follett has a broad selection of interactive eBook and database options to serve the needs of K-12 with a variety of pricing models to suit your needs.</i></p>	

Ownership & Sharing

<p>Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?</p>	<p>Yes. Our agreement with publishers ensures that customers will not lose access to their currently available content if the publisher withdraws some or all of their content for sale through Follett.</p>
<p>Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?</p>	<p>The terms of any agreement between you and Follett will specify the post-contract availability of content purchased under the agreement (e.g. the date any subscription items are set to expire).</p>
<p>Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>View the full Follett LULA at http://www.aboutfollettebooks.com/shelftermsfuse/index.cfm 1.1 As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated: "Licensed Materials" means the eBooks and/or other licensed content purchased by the Licensee. The Licensed Materials will be hosted on the secure Follett Platform. "Authorized Users" means those users that the Licensee identifies as authorized to access and use the Licensed Materials and Follett Platform. For Educational Services, Districts, Academic Libraries and Schools, "Licensee" shall mean the Educational Service, District, School or Library licensing the use of and access to the Follett Platform and Licensed Materials. Authorized Users include that Licensee's administration, faculty, staff and students who have access to that institution's network from either within the institution or via authenticated remote access. 1.2 You have a nonexclusive and nontransferable license to own or subscribe to, and provide limited access to the Licensed Materials to Authorized Users. If you have purchased a standard use license (one to one use), you may allow one Authorized User to access and use the Licensed Materials at one time. If you have purchased a single site (one building), unlimited simultaneous access license, you may allow unlimited simultaneous access to such Licensed Materials for your single site Authorized Users. For Institutions or Consortiums with multiple locations, each applicable location must have its own one to unlimited license. If you have purchased a limited time access period ("Access") to the Licensed Materials access to and use of the Licensed Materials a will only be granted for the specified life of the Access period. 1.3 The use of the Licensed Materials shall be for personal, non-commercial, educational, and research purposes. Follett reserves the right in its sole discretion to terminate your access to and usage of the Licensed Materials in the event that you or an Authorized User violates the terms of use hereunder provided however that Follett shall not terminate access and use unless it first notifies you of a violation of the terms of use by you or an Authorized User and you fail to reasonably remedy the violation within 30 days of receiving such notice. Repeated violations by you or your Authorized Users may be cause for terminating this</i></p> <p>Follett, Ownership & Sharing (continued)</p>	

Agreement or restricting access for the offending parties. If you are a Library Consortium, you are responsible for the access and usage of the Licensed Materials by the Authorized Users of your Library Members. You may not sell, transfer, publish, disclose, display or otherwise make available the Licensed Materials beyond the limits of the license set out above. You shall use reasonable care to protect the copyrights and trade secrets of Follett, the eBook and Licensed Materials authors and publishers. Violation of this provision shall be the basis for immediate termination of this Agreement. Termination of this Agreement shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other legal or equitable remedies available to Follett. 1.4 Follett will exercise its best efforts to host the Licensed Materials for the time period licensed by you (either perpetual access or for the applicable subscription/rental period). Follett will not be responsible for technological changes, acts of God and other events outside its control that make it impossible for you to temporarily or permanently access your Licensed Materials.

Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?	Yes. Availability of titles for multi-district sharing is subject to a review by Follett of publisher rights and agreements. Districts can create local collections within the shared collection.
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Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK	X	X
K-2	X	X
3-5	X	X
6-8	X	X
9-12	X	X
Fiction	X	X
Non-Fiction	X	X

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure	X	X			
Art	X	X	History	X	X
Award Winners	X	X	Historical Fiction	X	X
Battle of the Books	X	X	Juvenile Fiction	X	X
Beginning Readers	X	X	Math	X	X
Biographies	X	X	Middle Readers	X	X
Classroom Sets	X	X	Mysteries	X	X
Early Readers	X	X	Picture Books	X	X
ESL/Language Learning	X	X	Politics and Government	X	X
General Fiction	X	X	Pro/Con	X	X
General Nonfiction	X	X	Professional Develop	X	X
Geography and Culture	X	X	Reference	X	X
Graphic Novels	X	X	Science	X	X
Health and Wellness	X		Young Adult	X	

Follett (continued)

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	Follett supports all of the following devices: iPad, iPod touch, iPhone Android tablets, Android smartphones Kindle Fire, Fire HD and HD+ Nook Tablet, HD and HDX Windows, Mac and Chromebook PCs Windows 8 tablets and smartphones The full list of supported devices and system requirements is listed at http://www.aboutfollettebooks.com/techspecs.cfm .
Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:	Yes. Follett eBooks support offline access on the following devices: iPad, iPod touch, iPhone Android tablets, Android smartphones Nook HD and HDX Windows and Mac PCs Windows 8 tablets The full list of supported devices and system requirements is listed at http://www.aboutfollettebooks.com/techspecs.cfm .
Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.	Each individual patron can download a copy* of a Follett eBook to the supported device of their choice, whether it is their personal device or one provided by the library/school/district. * Limited to the number of available copies of that title at the site.
Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:	Yes, Follett eBooks can be read in our BryteWave K-12 Edition Cloud reader. Supported Browsers: Internet Explorer Safari Firefox Chrome The full list of supported browsers and system requirements is listed at http://www.aboutfollettebooks.com/techspecs.cfm .
MARC record are available for...	MARC records will be posted to your Titlewave account the same day your Follett eBook order is fulfilled. You will receive an email from Titlewave notifying you that your MARC records are ready for download.
When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...	Order fulfillment for Follett eBooks is typically within three business days.
The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...	Text-to-Speech and Textflow (provides the ability to enhance text font size and layout for ease of reading on all devices). Follett currently offers over 44,000 eBooks across all grades and subjects with Textflow.
Other special features include...	Note taking Bookmarks Citation tool Grade-appropriate dictionary Search Highlighting Printing Copy & Paste Zoom The vast majority of Follett eBook titles support most or all of these features, with thousands of new titles being added each month.

Follett, Features (continued)

Monthly usage reports are available by...	School, Format, Student, Patron type, Patron name, Title, Date range, Type of access (e.g. read online, download, etc.). Reports include Circulation by date range Circulation by access type Circulation by material type Circulation by patron type Circulation by school Circulation by district Circulation by title Time on task 3rd party hosted product access by patron Reading path usage Reading History snapshot Classroom Connections Teacher usage List of titles report
Users can be authenticated by...	IP address and Using the student information system. Destiny users can authenticate in Follett Shelf against Destiny's patron information; Non-Destiny users can use CSV file imports to load patrons directly into Follett Shelf; LDAP; SIP2
Holds can be placed on popular titles	Yes
Titles can be renewed	No
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	Yes. Follett Shelf supports library staff created circulation policies that allow you to define the number of concurrent circulations and holds as well as the length of the circulation time. You can also segment your content by creating different patron types and setting multiple policies for the same items. This empowers you to give teachers access to content that can be made unavailable to students, or to grant higher grade students a longer circulation period than lower grade students, prevent holds being placed on specific content or any number of other configurations that let you serve the needs of your patrons best.
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	Student can see hold is available when they log in.
Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	Yes
Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	Follett eBook and Follett Audiobook MARC records include concise and informative annotations, reading program information (AR, RC, Fountas and Pinnell) Lexile scores, interest level and reading level information to help students and educators quickly and easily identify the most appropriate content. Cover images are available for the vast majority of our content in both Follett Shelf and Destiny Library Manager, increasing the appeal of your collection for all users.
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	Yes. Follett offers a variety of third-party eBook products and platforms that can be included in your Follett Shelf collection.

Follett, Features (continued)

Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	Follett Shelf and Destiny Library Manager both allow patrons to create their own reviews on items in your collection. The ability to review items is set by the administrator (for either Follett Shelf or Destiny) and the administrator can choose to have all reviews require approval before posting or the administrator can allow patrons to create and post reviews directly to your site.
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes. Follett also has a large selection of bilingual titles that are an excellent resource for ESL students and teachers.
Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	No
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	No

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Title, Subject, Series, Genre, Grade Level, Interest Level, Reading Level, availability, Material type, Reading program (Accelerated Reader, Reading Counts, Fountas & Pinnell), Lexile, Language, Extent – Pages (allows the patron to filter based on the page count of the content), Review rating, Publication year
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre, Grade Level, Interest level, Format, Availability, Material type, Reading program (Accelerated Reader, Reading Counts, Fountas & Pinnell), Lexile, Language, Extent – Pages (allows the patron to filter based on the page count of the content), Review rating, Publication year
The full-text of a single title can be searched	Yes. Due to limitations in some of the eBook files we process, searching may be unavailable in a number of Follett eBook titles.
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	No

Follett (continued)

Support, Training, and Promotion

<p>Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product</p>	<p>Follett provides video on demand, guides that provide introductions to the various platforms and features and a robust Help section in each platform. In addition, we have live 1 hour Webinars and onsite workshops available.</p>
<p>What other help is available for using your product?</p>	<p>www.follettshelf.com contains lots of information on configuring, promoting and getting the most out of your Follett Shelf. We provide news on what's new for Follett Shelf and Follett eBooks and have a section for librarians and one for teachers to help guide you to the best of Follett. Follett Shelf also contains a Help section that will give you access to quick reference guides, help videos on features setting up Follett Shelf and using the BryteWave K-12 Edition reader. We also have a Technical Support department available to assist you with any questions you may have about our Follett digital products and platforms.</p>
<p>Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.</p>	<p>Follett Shelf has an excellent service record with a yearly uptime of 99.86% which includes downtime for scheduled maintenance and updates. When a Follett Shelf update is scheduled for release, we communicate via email and also post an admin message within Follett Shelf to ensure that our customers are aware if and when Follett Shelf will be unavailable. These updates are typically scheduled to occur late at night and over weekends to minimize any service interruptions for your patrons.</p>
<p>How frequently are updates made to the platform?</p>	<p>Follett averages 6 updates per year, with larger releases developed during the summer break for release prior to the back-to-school period.</p>
<p>Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.</p>	<p>Follett's Digital Tool Kit (found here: http://www.titlewave.com/intro/digital-toolkit/#/promotion) is focused specifically on supporting districts and schools with getting the best out of their digital collections. We provide print downloadables, social media imagery and options for ready-made kits in Titlewave. To help you support your users once you've gotten the word out about these great resources, we provide reference guides, getting started guides Webinars, How-to videos and a Digital Resources guide to help you identify options to take your digital solutions to the next level.</p>

Gale

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

111 Wisconsin school districts/libraries purchased ebooks from this vendor.

\$262,000 was spent by those purchasing ebooks.

Survey results:

16 libraries reported using this vendor.

3.5 (with 4 being “very satisfied”) was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

31% of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: N/A

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: \$500

Acquisition models

	Acquire individual copies that never expire.
	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations.
	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time.
X	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire. <i>All of our titles are unlimited simultaneous user with no expiration. You buy it, you own it.</i>
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time.
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire.
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time.

Gale (continued)

Ownership & Sharing

Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?	Yes
Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?	GVRL provides a purchase model of the titles that are available within Gale's collection. It is considered a purchase, and once the customer purchases the content, they own it as long as they pay the small annual access fee.
Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>No information provided</i>	
Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?	No

Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK	X	X
K-2	X	X
3-5	X	X
6-8	X	X
9-12	X	X
Fiction		
Non-Fiction	X	X

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure					
Art	X	X	History	X	X
Award Winners			Historical Fiction		
Battle of the Books			Juvenile Fiction		
Beginning Readers			Math		
Biographies	X	X	Middle Readers		
Classroom Sets			Mysteries		
Early Readers			Picture Books		
ESL/Language Learning			Politics and Government	X	X
General Fiction			Pro/Con	X	X
General Nonfiction	X	X	Professional Develop	X	X
Geography and Culture	X	X	Reference	X	X
Graphic Novels			Science	X	X
Health and Wellness	X	X	Young Adult		

Gale (continued)

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	GVRL is Device agnostic. It is available anywhere an internet connection is available, with added features and functionality available on iOS and Droid operating systems through Apps.
Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:	Content can be downloaded at the entry level to be read offline. This is on any device that can receive or read content as a pdf or as an html file.
Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.	Yes. Because of the unlimited/simultaneous model, there are no restrictions to download counts.
Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:	Yes, it can be read in any browser.
MARC record are available for...	MARC records are available for all titles and for no additional cost. They can be accessed as soon as the titles are activated, or around 24 hours after an order is placed.
When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...	Within 24 hours
The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...	In addition to the titles being unlimited/simultaneous access, Gale takes special care of ensuring we are differentiating the content to reach all users. For example, each title can be read aloud for audible learners or students with different reading levels. In addition to the read-aloud feature, every title can be translated into 11 different languages to reach a wide diversity of students.
Other special features include...	Other special features include highlighting/note taking, download of pdf to an e-reader, cross-searchability of all titles, sub-collection generator to separate content by subject area, built in dictionary, print, email, etc.
Monthly usage reports are available by...	School, Subject, and Format. Reports also include Searches, Retrievals, time viewed, full-text retrievals, holds.
Users can be authenticated by...	IP address and Password protected and defined by institution
Holds can be placed on popular titles	No
Titles can be renewed	No
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	No
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	N/A

Gale, Features (continued)

Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	Yes
Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	Reviews, Cover Art, Awards,
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	No
Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	No
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes
Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	Yes
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	No

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Titles, Subject, Series, Genre, Grade Level, Reading Level
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre, Grade Level
The full-text of a single title can be searched	Yes
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	Yes

Support, Training, and Promotion

Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product	Training is available to a district that is new to our product, but the extent to which training is available varies depending on the nature of the order and need of the account. We have a full-time internal training team that provides this in person, but web-based training is available as well with very few restrictions.
What other help is available for using your product?	Marketing support, creation of marketing materials with the ability to brand the marketing materials to your school or district's specifications. We also have some resources available to teachers i.e. lesson plans, curriculum guides, etc. We also have the ability to assist in website creation, widgets, logos, and other web-based promotion.
Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.	These are typically done via email, advertisements in various library and education publications, as well as through our sales channels.
How frequently are updates made to the platform?	The platform gets technological and tool based updates about once a year.
Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.	Marketing support, creation of marketing materials with the ability to brand the marketing materials to your school or district's specifications. We also have some resources available to teachers i.e. lesson plans, curriculum guides, etc. We also have the ability to assist in website creation, widgets, logos, and other web-based promotion.

Mackin Educational Resources

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

Information not available

Survey results:

12 libraries reported using this vendor.

3.25 (with 4 being “very satisfied”) was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

42% of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: \$21.00

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: \$28.00

Acquisition models

X	<p>Acquire individual copies that never expire. <i>Individual copies can be purchased with one or multiple copies of each individual title, each with perpetual / lifetime access to one user at a time in a single building. Multi-site licenses are also available. The model applies to all types of content – fiction, nonfiction, reference, professional, all subject areas.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations. <i>Individual copies can be purchased with one or multiple copies of each individual title, each with access to one user at a time in a single building for 26 checkouts. Multi-site licenses are also available. This applies to all types of content – fiction, nonfiction, reference, professional, all subject areas.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Individual copies can be purchased with one or multiple copies of each individual title, each with access to one user at a time in a single building for one year. In some cases, 2-, 3-, 5- or additional year licenses are also available. Multi-site licenses are also available. This applies to all types of content – fiction, nonfiction, reference, professional, all subject areas.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire. <i>Individual titles can be purchased for unlimited simultaneous perpetual use for all users in a single building. Multi-site licenses are also available. Applies to all types of content – fiction, nonfiction, reference, professional, all subject areas.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Individual titles can be purchased for unlimited simultaneous use for all users in a single building for one year. In some cases, 2-, 3-, 5- or additional year licenses are available. Multi-site licenses are also available. This applies to all types of content – fiction, nonfiction, reference, professional, all subject areas.</i></p>
	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire.</p>

Mackin, Acquisition models (continued)

X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time.</p> <p><i>Collections of titles can be purchased for unlimited simultaneous use for all users in a single building for one year. In some cases, 2-, 3-, 5- or additional year licenses are available. Multi-site licenses are also available. This applies to all types of content – fiction, nonfiction, reference, professional, all subject areas. Mackin provides eBook collections with subscription access for a handful of publisher products – primarily TumbleBooks, Arbordale, Orca, Sesame Street, Rourke and Capstone. Mackin can also create custom eBook collections as requested.</i></p>
<p>Other: For more information about the range of eBooks, publishers and licensing models available, please visit http://www.mackin.com/ESERVICES/EBOOKS.aspx.</p>	

Ownership & Sharing

Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?	Yes. Titles that have been purchased in perpetuity will always remain in the district’s collection, even if the title is removed from Mackin.com/the publisher’s catalog of available materials.
Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?	Titles that the district has acquired will remain available to them even if their contract with Mackin is terminated.
<p>Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>Access to Digital Content Hosted on Mackin’s Proprietary Platform: Many digital resources in MackinVIA will be hosted on our proprietary platform. This means Mackin has files from publishers on our servers. In the event you decide to cease using MackinVIA for access to your digital resources, we pledge to make a good faith effort to 1) represent your interests to our publishing partners in finding an alternative hosting solution, or 2) provide you with a viable portability mechanism while observing the terms of all material license agreements.</i></p>	
Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?	Mackin does allow for multiple school districts to share a collection of titles, meaning that users from any of the affiliated districts access the same “pool” of available titles. This means that individual users would be able to access school-purchased, district-purchased, and/or consortia-purchased digital materials all from their single MackinVIA account.

Mackin (continued)

Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK	X	X
K-2	X	X
3-5	X	X
6-8	X	X
9-12	X	X
Fiction	X	X
Non-Fiction	X	X

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure	X	X			
Art	X	X	History	X	X
Award Winners	X	X	Historical Fiction	X	X
Battle of the Books	X	X	Juvenile Fiction	X	X
Beginning Readers	X	X	Math	X	X
Biographies	X	X	Middle Readers	X	X
Classroom Sets	X	X	Mysteries	X	X
Early Readers	X	X	Picture Books	X	X
ESL/Language Learning	X		Politics and Government	X	X
General Fiction	X	X	Pro/Con	X	X
General Nonfiction	X	X	Professional Develop	X	
Geography and Culture	X	X	Reference	X	X
Graphic Novels	X	X	Science	X	X
Health and Wellness	X	X	Young Adult	X	X

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	MackinVIA is designed to allow for the broad device usage that exists in the educational field and is available for both Windows and Macintosh computers and on any device with Internet access. For the best online reading experience, use Internet Explorer 8 or newer, Firefox 14 or newer, Safari 5 or newer, or Chrome 16 or newer. Also, Flash 11.1 or newer is required for some interactive eBook titles.
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Mackin, Features (continued)

<p>Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:</p>	<p>MackinVIA content can be downloaded for offline use by using the MackinVIA app. Our MackinVIA app is available at no charge on Amazon, iTunes, and Google Play for iOS devices (including iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch), Android phones and tablets (such as the Samsung Galaxy Tab and Motorola Xoom), Nook Tablets and Kindle Fire Tablets. We also recently released a Chromebook app.</p>
<p>Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.</p>	<p>MackinVIA handles all content DRM and is cloud-based. For that reason, any device with internet access can utilize content. Materials can be downloaded to individual devices based on DRM restrictions (such as single-user or simultaneous use access).</p>
<p>Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:</p>	<p>For the best online reading experience, use Internet Explorer 8 or newer, Firefox 14 or newer, Safari 5 or newer, or Chrome 16 or newer. Also, Flash 11.1 or newer is required for some interactive eBook titles.</p>
<p>MARC record are available for...</p>	<p>MARC records are available for all titles purchased and can be downloaded as soon as the title is available in the MackinVIA account.</p>
<p>When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...</p>	<p>In general, digital titles are available to the library 2-5 days after ordering.</p>
<p>The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...</p>	<p>The MackinVIA platform includes a variety of customization features, including single or dual page view, the ability to zoom in and out and expand to full screen, an integrated Merriam-Webster dictionary, and text to speech for many titles (publishers may set limits on some MackinVIA Reader features). Additionally, MackinVIA has been WeCo certified (www.theweco.com), meaning that WeCo has verified that MackinVIA.com meets both W3C's WCAG 2.0 and Section 508 standards and criteria as well as WeCo's own standards.</p>
<p>Other special features include...</p>	<p>In addition to the features noted above, MackinVIA also includes the ability for students to take AR quizzes for titles they've read, view and copy citations (APA, MLA, MLA and Chicago/Turabian) through a partnership with EasyBib, utilize Backpack features such as highlighting, note-taking, and saving favorite titles, and more.</p>
<p>Monthly usage reports are available by...</p>	<p>School, Format. Usage reports can be accessed by MackinVIA administrators at any time and include format, group, category and more. Reports can be run for any specified date range. Reports include MackinVIA logins and eResources views, although we are working to expand available report measures.</p>

Mackin, Features (continued)

Users can be authenticated by...	IP address and Using the student information system. Mackin offers a wide variety of authentication options, including IP, SIS and more. We are always working on new and expanded ways to authenticate users into MackinVIA using the range of options currently available for districts nationwide.
Holds can be placed on popular titles	Yes
Titles can be renewed	Yes
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	Yes. MackinVIA administrators can customize the lending period for titles from 1 to 21 days. They can also limit the number of titles patrons can check out at a time (from 1 – 99 titles).
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	By email
Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	Reading level information, when available, is included in title descriptions both on Mackin.com (our commerce site for ordering) and in MackinVIA (where the purchased title is accessed).
Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	In MackinVIA, the following information is included (when available) for each title: Series name, number of pages, publisher & date of publication, subjects, topic/genre, category (such as Science), language, reading program information and features (such as text-to-speech). Additionally, MackinVIA administrators may also choose to include that title as part of a Group for students (such as Mrs Johnson’s Science Class materials).
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	Yes. MackinVIA was designed to be an “open” system, allowing for administrators to add content that may not have been originally purchased from Mackin. However, Mackin cannot guarantee that all online resources can be added to MackinVIA. In some cases, the content provider may opt out of providing access through MackinVIA, and/or may not be able to accommodate the authentication procedures necessary to provide direct access to the eResources.
Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	No
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes. Mackin currently offers over 4000 eBooks in Spanish, as well as additional languages. We are always working to expand our world language content.
Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	No
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	Mackin is working with some circulation software systems to enable this functionality and will continue to create connections when possible to streamline functionality for our users.

Mackin (continued)

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Titles, Subject, Series, Genre, Grade Level, Interest Level, Reading Level
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre, Grade Level, Interest level, Format
The full-text of a single title can be searched	Yes, when a single title is open, full text can be searching by using the Search feature.
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	No

Support, Training, and Promotion

Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product	Mackin is pleased to provide free, ongoing onsite training for all administrators, teachers and media specialists, whether in a group or individual setting as needed. Additionally, Mackin provides online webinars and other training sessions occasionally throughout the school year; personal webinars can be scheduled as needed at no additional charge. Our Customer Service department is also pleased to assist at any time. The MackinVIA Guides & Promotions page is available both within MackinVIA Administrator access and directly at http://www.mackin.com/ELIBRARY/VIA-MATERIALS.aspx . This page has a wide variety of guides, videos and promotional materials (such as posters and bookmarks) to help you understand how to use MackinVIA as an administrator, student or staff member and also how to promote MackinVIA within school locations.
What other help is available for using your product?	There are many MackinVIA Help Guides and video tutorials available at http://www.mackin.com/corp/help.html . The MackinVIA Admin User’s Guide outlines all features currently available for MackinVIA: http://www.mackin.com/Help/VIA_AdminGuide/index.html Mackin’s Customer Service department is available by calling 800-245-9540, emailing customerservice@mackin.com or using the LiveChat feature available on Mackin.com.
Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.	Mackin communicates MackinVIA information to our customers as needed, primarily via email. We may also post urgent notices online at www.mackinvia.com if needed.
How frequently are updates made to the platform?	MackinVIA is generally updated every 3-4 months depending on new features. Errors and/or issues are updated as soon as possible, when applicable.
Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.	The MackinVIA Guides & Promotions page is available both within MackinVIA Administrator access and directly at http://www.mackin.com/ELIBRARY/VIA-MATERIALS.aspx . This page has a wide variety of guides, videos and promotional materials (such as posters and bookmarks) to help you understand how to use MackinVIA as an administrator, student or staff member and also how to promote MackinVIA within school locations.

OverDrive, Inc.

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

96 Wisconsin school districts/libraries purchased ebooks from this vendor.

\$530,000 was spent by those purchasing ebooks.

Survey results:

36 libraries reported using this vendor.

3.3 (with 4 being "very satisfied") was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

39% of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

Additional comments from the survey about this vendor:

· Have just started using Overdrive at the High School. Had some usage over the summer however have just started going to classrooms to push it more. Have had some success, however, too early to access. Staff has liked it for their pleasure reading.

· I use OverDrive from my public library and am not that thrilled with it. I think it is cumbersome and often since a small number of titles are available via the consortium, the wait time is too long. It's easier to get the print version. Also, the different platforms that audiobooks are on in OverDrive can be frustrating because I will find one I want to listen to and it won't work with my iPhone because it isn't compatible but I don't know that, so I have to go into Overdrive to find out why. When my daughter was in high school, her district got OverDrive and I would look at the ebooks in that collection and did not see many ebooks checked out.

· I had Overdrive last year, but discontinued. Multiple platforms were confusing.

· I really like the look and "feel" of Overdrive, however, it is a struggle to promote any of the ebooks.

· negative comment - at this time, all the book jackets show for the "district" collection, this is a problem for middle school students, they should not be seeing some of the jackets as they are inappropriate, titles can be set so that middle school students can't checkout certain YA and Adult books but they still see the jacket cover

· Unlimited content is available on Follett non-fiction, but not on Overdrive fiction. I would love it on fiction titles. Would like to see more non-fiction content available.

· OverDrive has been a valuable and responsive partner. Their tech and customer support is incredibly fast and helpful, and the user experience improves with each release.

· I would like a system like OverDrive but it is too expensive for my district

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: \$15.00

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: \$20.00

OverDrive (continued)

Acquisition models

X	Acquire individual copies that never expire. <i>This model is available for eBooks, audiobooks, music, video from most publishers and represents 500,000 titles.</i>
X	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations. <i>Individual copy purchase that expires after a certain number of checkouts, usually 26 or 52 checkouts are available for eBooks from specific publishers (50,000 titles).</i>
X	Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Individual copy purchase that expires after a certain amount of time, usually 12 or 24 months is available for eBooks from specific publishers (50,000 titles).</i>
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire.
X	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Individual titles can be purchased for 12 months. 100,000 books, audiobooks, and periodicals from specific publishers are available in this model.</i>
	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire.
X	Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Entire publisher catalogs can be purchased for 12 months. 100,000 eBooks and audiobooks from specific publishers are available in this model.</i>
Other: Pay per student: 3,750 eBooks from specific publishers are available for 1, 3, 6, or 12 months for a fixed price per student.	

Ownership & Sharing

Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?	Yes
Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?	In the event of a wind down or termination of the OverDrive agreement, OverDrive will fully cooperate with and support the School's continued access to all of its digital content, as may be permitted by the supplying publishers and rights holders.
Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>School Account obtains certain rights and access to use the Digital Content and SDL Service for the term of its agreement with OverDrive. At the end of such term, all the licenses granted to School Account shall be terminated immediately, including School Account's access to the SDL Service and any and all Digital Content.</i> http://www.overdrive.com/sdl-aa.pdf	
Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?	Yes. Districts can also create local collections within the shared collection.

OverDrive (continued)

Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK		
K-2	X	X
3-5	X	X
6-8	X	X
9-12	X	X
Fiction	X	X
Non-Fiction	X	X

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure	X	X			
Art	X	X	History	X	X
Award Winners	X	X	Historical Fiction	X	X
Battle of the Books	X	X	Juvenile Fiction	X	X
Beginning Readers	X	X	Math	X	X
Biographies	X	X	Middle Readers	X	X
Classroom Sets	X	X	Mysteries	X	X
Early Readers	X	X	Picture Books	X	X
ESL/Language Learning	X	X	Politics and Government	X	X
General Fiction	X	X	Pro/Con	X	X
General Nonfiction	X	X	Professional Develop	X	X
Geography and Culture	X	X	Reference	X	X
Graphic Novels	X	X	Science	X	X
Health and Wellness	X	X	Young Adult	X	X

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	N/A - OverDrive is device agnostic
Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:	All OverDrive titles can be downloaded for offline reading. Offline reading is supported on all devices.
Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.	Yes for titles that offer simultaneous use. One title, one user copies are licensed for one user to each copy purchased.

OverDrive, Features (continued)

Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:	Yes, content can be read in any modern browser including Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Android Browser, Internet Explore, Kindle Silk, and Nook Browser.
MARC records are available for...	Yes, and they are available within 24 hours.
When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...	Within 4 hours
The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...	OverDrive offers accessibility to students with impairments through LEAP. Library eBook Accessibility Program. 23,000 titles. http://company.overdrive.com/files/LEAP.pdf
Other special features include...	OverDrive offers titles with embedded audio that read along in a professional narrated voice as it highlights words. 500 titles and growing. Fixed layout for picture books on any device. 3,800 titles and growing.
Monthly usage reports are available by...	School, Subject, Format, and Student. Reports also include Day, Month, Publisher, Format, Title, Subject, or individual school. Can limit by lending model: One Copy/One User, Metered Access, Simultaneous Use. Can limit to specific format and date range. Additional stats individual title usage are in development.
Users can be authenticated by...	Using the student information system and Using the library system barcode
Holds can be placed on popular titles	Yes
Titles can be renewed	Yes
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	Yes
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	By email
Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	Yes
Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	Cover art, reviews, social media integration, leveling including ATOS, Lexile, and suggested reading levels, star ratings from other district users, and other similar titles within district service.
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	Yes, with permission from supplying publishers content can be transferred to OverDrive.
Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	Yes. Users can add star ratings and mobile apps provide direct integration with Goodreads (http://www.goodreads.com/).
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes
Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	Yes
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	Yes, OverDrive provides a full suite of API and connects with many cataloging vendors. http://developer.overdrive.com/

OverDrive (continued)

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Titles, Subject, Series, Genre, Grade Level, Interest Level, Reading Level
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre, Grade Level, Interest Level, Format
The full-text of a single title can be searched	Yes
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	No

Support, Training, and Promotion

Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product	We provide expert training with both live and on-demand training is available pre- and post-launch on every aspect of the service. http://partners.overdrive.com/learning-center/
What other help is available for using your product?	Content support for ordering and maximizing budgets. http://partners.overdrive.com/collection-development/ Promotional and marketing support to ensure awareness and involvement and students and staff. http://partners.overdrive.com/marketing-outreach/schools/
Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.	All communications are posted within administrative portals, sent out in email communications and social media outlets.
How frequently are updates made to the platform?	Updates and enhancements take place every month to platform, apps, and underlying technologies.
Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.	OverDrive provides assistance at no additional cost including promotional materials, web graphics, templates for letters and announcements and much more. http://partners.overdrive.com/files/PartnerServices/BestPracticesSDL.pdf OverDrive also offers visits with the Digital Bookmobile, an 18 wheel truck that unfolds into an interactive exhibit that promotes your local services. http://digitalbookmobile.com/

ProQuest

2013/14 school year data (reported by the vendor):

0 Wisconsin school districts/libraries purchased ebooks from this vendor.

0 was spent by those purchasing ebooks.

Survey results:

1 libraries reported using this vendor.

4 (with 4 being “very satisfied”) was the average satisfaction with the vendor.

0 of responding libraries that use this vendor reported also using an additional vendor for ebooks.

General information about the collection

Average price for a single copy of a popular title that never expires: \$15.00

Average price for a single copy of a reference title that never expires: \$40.00

Acquisition models

X	<p>Acquire individual copies that never expire. <i>Different license choices are available by publisher. We offer over 1000 publishers and have many titles that are unlimited simultaneous users, some that are single user, some that 3 user, some that are a combination of these. This applies to ALL of our content. (over 750,000 unique titles)</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain number of circulations. <i>Unlike other vendors...our model limits circulations per year, but then REFILLS at NO ADDITIONAL COST the following year. You can use the book up to 325 times during a 12 month period. If you want to by additional copies, each one would add 325 uses. This applies to ALL of our content or about 500,000 titles</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire individual copies that expire after a certain length of time. <i>Yes but unlike other vendors...our model limits circulations per year, but then REFILLS at NO ADDITIONAL COST the following year. You can use the book up to 325 times during a 12 month period. If you want to by additional copies, each one would add 325 uses. This applies to ALL of our content or about 500,000 titles.</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that never expire. <i>Different license choices are available by publisher. We offer over 1000 publishers and have many titles that are unlimited simultaneous users, some that are single user, some that 3 user, some that are a combination of these. This applies to ALL of our content, over 750,000 unique titles</i></p>
	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of individual titles that expire after a certain length of time.</p>

ProQuest, Acquisition models (continued)

X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that never expire. <i>a) Yes b) Different license choices are available by publisher. We offer over 1000 publishers and have many titles that are unlimited simultaneous users, some that are single user, some that 3 user, some that are a combination of these. c) This applies to ALL of our content. d) Over 750,000 unique titles</i></p>
X	<p>Acquire unlimited simultaneous use of collections of titles that expire after a certain length of time. <i>We offer over 35 different subscription collections that would need to be renewed each 12 months. We offer over 1000 publishers and have only titles that are unlimited simultaneous users, Our subscription collections number almost 400,000 titles over all content areas.</i></p>
<p>Other: <i>We offer a PURCHASE model called Non Linear Lending that goes by uses per 12 month period and auto-refills at no cost each year. We also offer Short Term Loan options on 90% of our content</i></p>	

Ownership & Sharing

Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if a publisher chooses to remove the title from the vendor's collection?	Yes. Once you purchase a title, a publisher cannot remove it. If you are subscribing to a collection, a publisher CAN remove content.
Are titles that a district has acquired available to them if their contract with the vendor is terminated?	Yes. Again, assuming we are talking about purchased titles, the content has been purchased and we can provide you with the content if you no longer wish to use our platform.
Please provide, if possible, any contract language that addresses ownership of content: <i>It varies wildly, depending on license model. I would be happy to address these issues at the appropriate time.</i>	
Do you allow multiple school districts to share a collection of titles?	Yes. Publisher approval is a mandated obligation. In addition, appropriate authentication and license pricing would need to be considered and approved. We do have many clients that do this. Districts can also create local collections within shared collections.

Grade levels/Fiction/Non-Fiction:

Grade level	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
PreK	X	
K-2	X	
3-5	X	
6-8	X	X
9-12	X	X
Fiction	X	
Non-Fiction	X	X

Comments from vendor on grade levels/fiction/non-fiction:

We are primarily non-fiction but do have many, many literature classics.

ProQuest (continued)

Subject areas:

Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?	Subject area	Available?	Used by survey respondents?
Adventure	X				
Art	X		History	X	
Award Winners	X		Historical Fiction	X	
Battle of the Books	X		Juvenile Fiction	X	
Beginning Readers	X		Math	X	
Biographies	X		Middle Readers	X	
Classroom Sets	X		Mysteries	X	
Early Readers	X		Picture Books	X	
ESL/Language Learning	X		Politics and Government	X	
General Fiction	X		Pro/Con	X	
General Nonfiction	X		Professional Develop	X	
Geography and Culture	X	X	Reference	X	
Graphic Novels	X		Science	X	
Health and Wellness	X		Young Adult	X	

Features:

(Note: The list of features below are ordered by importance as indicated by the ebook survey. Most important features appear first.)

Ebooks from this vendor are compatible with:	{Will work with anything but} anything that cannot connect to the internet. Our platform is cloud-based, so if you can get to the internet on a device, you can get to us.
Content from this vendor can be downloaded to read offline on the following devices:	Yes. We use Adobe Digital Editions (which is free). If you can have ADE on your device, you can download full titles. Additionally, we also allow chapter and page-range downloads. I know of no devices that cannot support one of these methods.
Each title can be downloaded to multiple devices owned by the library.	Yes. Depending on the license purchased, downloads can be unlimited.
Content from this vendor can be read in the following browsers:	Yes. All of the major browsers. We also use the BlueFire app for mobile devices, if so desired.
MARC record are available for...	Free MARC records are available immediated.
When content is ordered, it is added to the collection...	Almost immediately
The special features available to provide equal access to all students are...	From authentication to performance, ProQuest abides by all possible guidelines.

ProQuest, Features (continued)

Other special features include...	There are many other special features: 1. Personal Bookshelf which is both a personal space as well as a collaborative tool 2. Custom Search. The ability to connect THROUGH the eBook to your other digital resources like databases (Not just ProQuest's but ALL vendors) and your own library catalog. 3. The fully robust Digital Archiving component that comes with the platform These are just three. There are many others.
Monthly usage reports are available by...	School, Subject, and Format. Reports include Any data point imaginable. Page views, unique titles, subject area, sub-topic area, downloads, pages printed, etc....
Users can be authenticated by...	IP address, Using the student information system, Using the library system barcode, and more. We have MANY ways to authenticate
Holds can be placed on popular titles	No
Titles can be renewed	No
Can library staff customize the lending periods for titles?	Yes
How are notifications of available holds, title expiration, etc. delivered to user?	
Is information about reading levels included in the description of the titles?	It is planned for future releases but does not exist as of now.
Is there other information beyond basic bibliographic information that may be helpful?	Jacket covers links to other electronic resources (other databases and other library catalogs) Full Archiving capability
Can content from other ebook vendors be added to your platform?	Yes
Can students or staff add their own reviews and ratings of books?	Yes
Is content available in Spanish?	Yes. We offer thousands of Spanish language content, as well as other languages.
Can the interface be displayed in Spanish?	Yes
Is it possible, using APIs or other technologies, for a user to see the holds and checkouts that they have on your ebooks through their school library catalog?	Yes. Works with all known catalogs.

Searching & browsing

Searching can be done by...	Author, Title, Subject, Series, Genre
Browsing can be done by...	Subject, Genre
The full-text of a single title can be searched	Yes
The full-text of the entire collection can be searched	Yes

ProQuest (continued)

Support, Training, and Promotion

Describe the training supplied to a district that is new to your product	unlimited and free. We do onsite, webex, recorded video, have our own YouTube channel, We can completely customize training to fit ANY organization.
What other help is available for using your product?	Marketing support to broadcast internally that this product is available. We offer loads of FREE customization on the platform. We have numerous touch points, including your own dedicated tech support manager.
Describe how you communicate support issues, including new releases, new features, outages, etc.	We take great pride in offering our clients an array of communication possibilities, including: calls, texts, emails, website notification, private meetings, conferences, etc. What works for your group is what works for us.
How frequently are updates made to the platform?	Of course as needed. From a content standpoint, we do major additions about two or three times a year.
Describe how you help districts promote e-books in their schools.	I have written press releases, recorded unique, branded videos for districts, I have gone district to district and school to school. I am comfortable saying that I personally and ProQuest company-wide can offer promotional support of these products that no other vendor can match.