Evaluation of E-books

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“the e-Book market was never going to be simple”
What does it mean to use a book?
Standardized Usage Reports

- COUNTER Book Report 2: Number of Successful Section Requests by Month and Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Green Development : Environment and Sustainability in the South</td>
<td>Routledge</td>
<td>9780415147668</td>
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<td>Honest Politics: Seeking Integrity in Canadian Political Life</td>
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<td>Strangers at Our Gates: Canadian Immigration and Immigration Policy, 1540-2006</td>
<td>Dundurn Group</td>
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<td>Routledge</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Ontario: Historical Perspectives on the First Nations</td>
<td>Dundurn Group</td>
<td>9781550022308</td>
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<td>Exporting Good Governance: Temptations and Challenges in Canada's Aid Program</td>
<td>Wilfrid Laurier University Press</td>
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…or not?

Turnaways

- COUNTER Book Report 3: Turnaways by month and title
- Level of access will affect level of use
Comparing to print

• Apples and oranges
• But...
  – Newer stuff gets more use
  – Course-related materials get more use
  – 80/20 ish rule still applies
Cost and Cost/Use

• As compared to print
• Packages vs. individual titles
• Aggregators vs. publishers
• Patron and demand-driven models
• Subscription vs. purchase vs. lending models
• Workflow costs
Complicating Factors

• User experience
  – Platform issues/preferences
  – Problem of defining exactly what is an e-book
  – Textbooks vs. reference vs. scholarly monographs
  – Course readings and e-reserves

• Discoverability
  – MARC records availability and quality
  – Semantic linking
  – Library catalogue as main access point
Thank you for listening...

...questions?