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# NoWAL Exchange of Experience event: Patron-driven acquisition

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Patron-driven acquisition (PDA) is one way of increasing e-book holdings in libraries by placing the MARC records for a large number of titles in the library catalogue and paying for the titles actually used. This method of purchasing e-books 'on demand' is becoming more popular and delegates at the NOWAL (North West Academic Libraries) event were keen to discuss their experiences so far. Liam Sullivan (Acquisitions Manager at Edge Hill) and James Allan (Collections Management Team Leader at Salford) gave the main presentations and a draft of the article published in this issue of Focus was made available to delegates. Generally speaking, most libraries that have tried PDA have had positive experiences, though there are ongoing management issues to consider with each purchasing model. Liam Sullivan mentioned the difficulty of removing titles such as older editions (now being addressed by the suppliers), the need to track invoicing and fund management, and some concerns that titles not specifically recommended by teaching staff can be more popular than titles on reading lists. James Allan described Salford's promotional campaign for e-books during induction, using posters and QR codes. When Salford introduced the Primo discovery service, it became easier to import MARC records directly and merge the records for print and electronic versions of the same title.

During the discussion session, delegates noted that the PDA packages are constantly changing and being updated, which was seen as very positive. It can take time to find the right operational models but overall the purchase rather than rental options are perceived as better value at present. Publicity and marketing are not straightforward: most libraries are promoting the availability of

more e-books generally rather than spelling out the specifics of the purchasing model, to avoid skewing user selection activity.

Details of all NOWAL exchange of experience events are available at [http://www.nowal.ac.uk/training\\_and\\_development.php](http://www.nowal.ac.uk/training_and_development.php)