

L'enfer c'est les autres

Consorting, collecting
and co-operating in UK
academic libraries

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Introduction

- Consorting = Hell
- Collecting = Purgatory
- Co-operating = Paradise

Consorting – a particular kind of Hell

- Purchasing in the digital era
- ARL statistics
 - ◆ Early 1990's 3.6% of budget = electronic purchasing
 - ◆ Late 1990's 10.5% of budget = electronic purchasing

UK Library consortia

- Higher Education library book spend = £40 million (\$60 million)
 - ★ Consortia spend = £31 million

- Public library book spend = £103 million (\$154.5 million)
 - ★ Consortia spend = £14.6 million

1998/99 figures

Consortia = using the money wisely?

- Drive down prices
- Negotiate collective agreements
- Drive out suppliers
- Compete with other consortia

Publishers in on the act

- Dealing only with consortia
- National big deals
 - ◆ eg NESLI
- Library users know who publishes what and only want the output of certain publishers.... ?

Collecting is Purgatory

- Stumbling blocks on the way...
 - ◆ Intellectual property rights
 - ◆ Licence agreements
 - ◆ Authentication and user interfaces
 - ◆ Standards and interoperability
 - ◆ Marketing
 - ◆ Different pricing and tax regimes
 - ◆ Language

Co-operation is Paradise

- Define our primary purpose
 - ◆ UK+ co-operative initiatives
 - RSLP
 - British Library
 - DNER eg HUMBUL
 - Nesli
 - CAMiLEON
 - SPARC ... Europe
 - CLUMPS = UK NUC

Make time for our
primary purpose

The Divine Comedy

*Everybody's running
Round and round in
circles*

*What is it they're trying to
prove?*

*Exercise your freedoms
Exorcise those demons
You have got to love what
you do*

*Regeneration
March 2001*