



## Library Choice from the ASA E-Collections Management - Your Way



### ***Better Access, Bigger Workload***

As the number of publishers offering e-content and e-content packages continues to grow, the role of the modern librarian is increasingly defined by the volume of work associated with access to and management of e-collections.

Subscribing to a large package of e-journals, either directly or through a consortium, whilst providing greater access, typically creates more work for administrative, serials and technical staff. Not knowing precisely which titles and years are included in a deal makes collection management difficult and time consuming and this lack of detail makes content linking and discovery difficult, if not impossible. Factors such as these may compromise or even prevent libraries from fulfilling their key role - enabling intuitive, seamless access to their information collections.

### ***Support for Libraries***

Agents and publishers understand that many libraries are struggling in this challenging environment. In response, the ASA and its members have collaborated with publishers to develop the **Library Choice** initiative. Library Choice is about supporting customer choice. It enables libraries to take advantage of publisher deals, in terms of price and features, whilst remaining free to order through preferred channels and retain valuable agent services which help them achieve their information access and management goals. In this way, libraries get the support they need with the extra work e-journal collections can entail, whilst being able to take advantage of a good price, for example as negotiated by a buying group or consortium.

### ***Endorsement from Publishers***

By signing a Library Choice letter, publishers pledge their support for libraries and consortia to have a choice, for example to place their orders directly with the publisher or, if they prefer, through an agent<sup>1</sup>. Where an agent is preferred, the agent becomes the billing and payment partner, and provides both library and publisher with management data: a win-win for everyone.

### ***Value from Agents***

In cases where a deal calls for direct interaction between the library/consortium and the publisher, the Library Choice pledge enables agents to deliver services where required without restrictions, for example in areas such as: new orders, renewals and claims, accurate and timely pricing information, title-level management information, historical holdings information (including cost-per-use data), COUNTER & SUSHI compliant usage data as well newer services, including assistance with publisher negotiations, cost comparison calculations and sophisticated, pre-populated ERM services.

To find out more about Library Choice, visit the Association of Subscription Agents & Intermediaries website ([www.subscription-agents.org](http://www.subscription-agents.org)) or speak to your subscription agent.

<sup>1</sup>Library Choice endorses only agents who are members of the ASA as only these agents have signed up to the ASA Guidelines, [www.subscription-agents.org/about-asa/asa-guidelines](http://www.subscription-agents.org/about-asa/asa-guidelines), industry-leading standards of excellence, integrity and service innovation in information services.

## Publishers currently supporting Library Choice are:

- ◆ Akadémiai Kiadó
- ◆ American Institute of Physics
- ◆ Antiquity
- ◆ BMJ
- ◆ Brill
- ◆ Earthscan
- ◆ Edinburgh University Press
- ◆ Emerald
- ◆ Geological Society Publishing House
- ◆ Inderscience
- ◆ Informa Healthcare
- ◆ Intellect
- ◆ IOS Press
- ◆ IWA Publishing
- ◆ JNS Publishing Group
- ◆ John Benjamins Company Publishing
- ◆ Karger
- ◆ Kluwer Law
- ◆ Landes Bioscience
- ◆ Maney Publishing
- ◆ Oxford University Press
- ◆ Pavilion
- ◆ Pharmaceutical Press
- ◆ Policy Press
- ◆ Royal College of Psychiatrists
- ◆ Royal College of Surgeons of England
- ◆ Springer
- ◆ Taylor & Francis
- ◆ The Company of Biologists
- ◆ Trans Tech Publications
- ◆ Walter De Gruyter
- ◆ Warc



**Library  
Choice**



**Association of  
Subscription Agents  
& Intermediaries**