

## **PDA: Are We Ready to Step Into the River?**

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Patron Driven Acquisitions (PDA), as a collection method, has drawn attentions of library professionals for some time. Its impacts, however, are not clear so far. Last year, PDA was the number one of 2010 top ten trends in academic libraries listed by ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee. Since then, PDA becomes a hot issue and practice. In a sense, PDA changed library collection development tradition fundamentally. The ideal has been discussed, explored, tested, and developed broadly around the world. PDA will gradually be part of collection and acquisition practice. What is PDA? How does it work? How is PDA different from approval plan or purchase-on-demand? Why should we integrate it into the workflow of library's collection development?

The presentation will provide an overview of PDA's formation chronically; introduce its pros and cons; outline current PDA practice in academic libraries. We will demonstrate where and how it fits into library's current collection, acquisition, cataloging, and ILL's workflow; analyze the librarians' role and challenges related to PDA. Furthermore, the presentation will review Chinese eBooks market today, assess the potentials of PDA in Chinese language environment and its unique challenge in implementation.

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Note:

The proposal targets on the topic #3 "Explore new acquisition methods/models (purchase on demand, faculty driven acquisition, vendor selection, approval plans..."

Although many evidences show that PDA is a clear trend for the future, it is still in the process of developing. Many concerns about PDA have not been resolved. In preparing for the presentation, we run into many questions: To what extent should we allow patrons be involved into collection decisions? What are the budget impacts of PDA? Are Chinese vendors ready for PDA? Should we include PDA into our workflow? When would be the best time to implement it? What should we do to prepare for implementation? Will it affect our job? By address all those issues, we hope to help audiences, using PDA or not, gaining better understanding of the issues. We also hope the presentation would generate further discussion since PDA practice in Chinese eBooks is still in a very preliminary stage.