



NASIG Newsletter

Vol. 26, no. 2

May 2011

eISSN 1542-3417

NASIG News

NASIG Endorses the ASA's Library Choice Initiative

NASIG is pleased to support “*Library Choice*”, a benefit that honors the service, invoicing and payment preferences of libraries and consortia. For many libraries, it is more efficient to use an agent to submit orders and payments. 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.

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. NASIG and its members are familiar with how this extra work can be trying and time-consuming at best and a considerable challenge at worst. Lack of certainty about which titles and years are included in a deal makes collection management difficult and often impacts critical areas such as content linking and resource discovery. Some libraries have local campus requirements that mandate title-by-title invoicing. Factors such as these compromise or even prevent libraries from fulfilling their key role enabling intuitive, seamless access to their information collections.

By endorsing *Library Choice*, NASIG pledges its support for libraries and consortia to have a choice to place their orders directly with the publisher or, if they prefer, through an agent¹. 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.



¹ Library Choice endorses only agents who are members of the Association of Subscription Agents & Intermediaries (ASA) as only these agents have signed up to the ASA Guidelines, www.subscription-agents.org/about-asa/asa-guidelines, industry-leading standards of excellence, integrity and service innovation in information services.