

## The acquisition of eBooks for the collection of the University Library

The library supports EUR staff and students in creating and disseminating knowledge. We aim to make academic information available to the EUR community as efficiently as possible. This is why our acquisition policy for new material is 'digital by default'.

Every eBook acquisition request or suggestion is assessed using the following criteria: is the eBook digitally available, will it be available to the EUR community as a whole, and are there limitations to its availability? Therefore, it is not always possible for us to acquire eBooks even if they are digitally available.

Some of the more frequently encountered issues are outlined below:

- **Not (yet) digitally available**  
Some books are not (yet) digitally available to libraries. If this is the case, we will assess the necessity of acquiring a paper copy (or multiple copies in case of the study sections) for our collection.
- **Digitally available with restrictions: licenses**  
The library prefers to buy eBooks that are available permanently. However, sometimes collections of eBooks are made available for a limited amount of time (e.g., 12 months), thereby providing access to a much larger number of titles than would have been available had the titles had been purchased outright. After this period has elapsed, the titles that are used the most are acquired by the library. In sEURch, you can see if an eBook is available temporarily.
- **Limited availability**  
Publishers sometimes only sell eBooks to individual buyers, and not to libraries. Or they do sell the eBook to the library, but only on the basis of one digital copy per library patron. This is contrary to the library's policy of making resources in our collection available across the whole of the EUR community. The library makes the eBooks in the collection available to all at the EUR, but this does not always mean that access is unlimited: part of the eBooks in our collection are available only to 1 or 3 simultaneous users, meaning that only 1 or 3 patrons respectively can access the eBook at the same time. There may also be limitations on the number of pages that can be downloaded, printed, or copy-pasted, and creating an account on the provider's page may be a precondition to having these options.
- **Available as part of a collection**  
Some content is only available as part of a larger book or journal collection. These are (overly) expensive to acquire and often include content not relevant for research and education at the EUR.

In case of questions or suggestions regarding the purchase of (digital) materials, please contact your Faculty Liaison:

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