

Exercise #6

E-book Collection Analysis

In this exercise, you will analyze your library's e-book collection, then work with a partner to explain the collection.

Part I: Evaluate your e-book collection and the way your library uses it. (If your library does not have an e-book collection, raise your hand and we will find you a partner.)

The collection:

- How large is your e-book collection? (Hint: do a keyword search in your library's catalog for "Netlibrary" or other e-book vendor).
- What subject areas are included?
- Are the titles current? Are there recent publication dates?

Using the collection:

- What issues are different with e-book collections from print collections or from other licensed databases?
- If necessary, spend a few minutes in your library's e-book collection reviewing the mechanics of using the collection:
 - searching
 - printing
 - checkout (if necessary)
 - login or personal account creation

Part II: With a partner, each play the role of a library staff member and a library user once.

User: Ask for an e-book in a very general category that should be covered in your partner's collection.

Library staff:

- Find an e-book from your collection to meet the user's request.
- Explain what an e-book is and how it can and cannot be used.
- Describe how the user can access this book again from their home.

Switch: Reverse roles so that you both have an opportunity to be the staff member.