Mission-Focused Collections: Rebirth of the 'Seminarbibliothek' as an E-Book Collection

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Comments
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Abstract
German universities built over the years highly specialized book collections for use by faculty and graduate students. The German term, “Seminarbibliothek,” is often applied to these types of collections, although examples can be found in universities across Europe. The purpose of this paper is to examine a similar type of collection using e-books in veterinary science and to compare this collection to the standard subject classified e-book collections. The study looks at how such a collection might be formed and defined and what possible effects this might have on the use of collections of this type.

Keywords
e-book collections, seminarbibliothek, veterinary science collections

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The method focuses on field collection, its usage and the position of the discipline in the university. Collection mapping is a technique to examine the state of information resources, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in a certain subject area. It is also a process to identify the strengths and weaknesses of a certain field collection with a view to its further development.

The acquisition of e-books started slightly later: in 2002 there were 15 e-books in the collection, in 2008 the number exceeded 328,000. (Tampere University Library, 1991-2008). The pricing policy of publishers and vendors, the so called “Big Deal”, caused electronic collections to increase without selecting resources title by title. (Frazier, 2001; Peters, 2001).