
How are Catalan University Libraries Coping with the Economic Crisis?

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20th Pan-Hellenic Academic Libraries Conference
Thessaloniki, November 14th 2011



Consorci de
Biblioteques Universitàries
de Catalunya 1

Summary

1. A short overview about CBUC
2. 2010: “soft” impacts of the economic crisis
3. 2011: the crisis is really here!
 1. Building a strategy
 2. Which is our core collection?
 3. Working with different scenarios
4. Now what?

CBUC

- 15 members (mainly Catalan public universities)
- 1996: first project was the union catalogue (CCUC)
- Digital Library of Catalonia (BDC):
 - Began in 1998-9
 - Expenditure approx. 9M€
 - 10.000 e-journals
 - 15.000 e-books
 - 20 databases
 - Funding from members (+Catalan government)
 - Most licenses include nearly all CBUC members
 - [Also support several OA repositories]



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2010: BDC economic situation

- Less incomes for CBUC 2011 license renewals:
 - Catalan government = 2009 funds + 0%
 - (but a 5% decrease in salaries!)
 - CBUC members = 2009 funds + 3,5%
- More expenditures:
 - Costs = 2009 cost + 5% (average)
 - Higher VAT: 16 → 18%

Result: -200.000€



First steps (february 2010)

- Acquisitions librarians' group meeting
 - Mandate: to preserve e-journals subscriptions!
 - Conducted an analysis about BDC “redundant” content:
 - BSE/Econlit/Factiva
 - JSTOR/PAO-PIO
 - Mathscinet/Zentralblatt Math
 - Parameters: usage, overlapping with full text resources, costs, etc.

- Vendors' meeting at CBUC Office
 - EBSCO, Swets, Ovid, ProQuest, DOC6, GreenData
 - Several proposals, but no pricing in most of them ...
 - Some discounts from a couple of vendors (if we renewed their products)

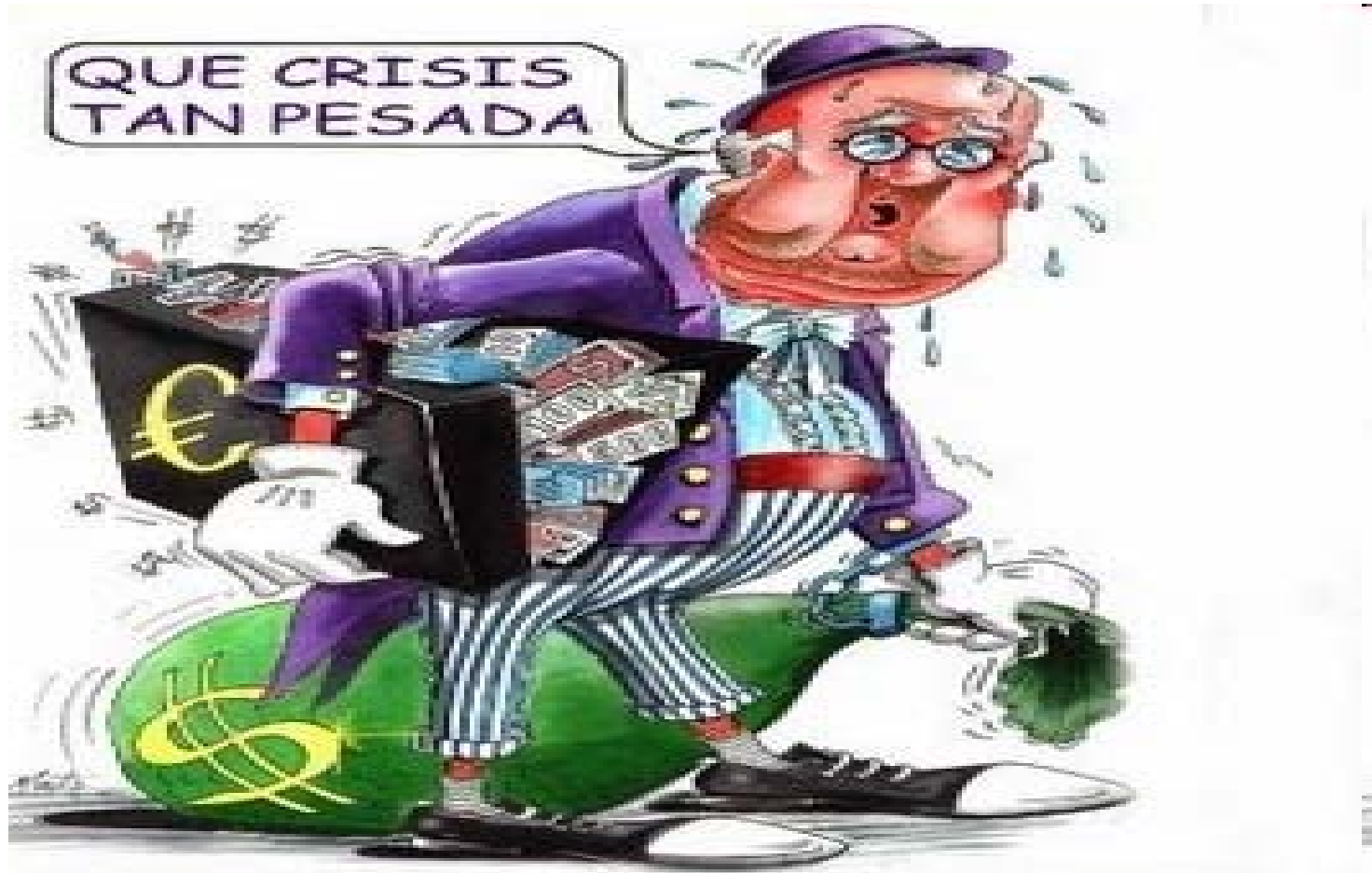
BDC 2010 “strategy”

Objective: keeping as much (full text) content as possible!

- No new incomes available, though we tried
- And tried to move some costs to other budgets, but didn't succeed
- Also asked e-journal publishers to reduce price increases as much as possible (0%?), got some positive answers (which was good, but not enough ...)

→ ***In the end, Business Source Elite was cancelled***

“This crisis is so annoying ...”



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2011: economic situation

- Worse than the year before:
 - Again, costs increased more than incomes = -120.000€ approx.
 - 3 more cancellations: ABI Inform, Safari Tech Books Online, VLEX
 - And in March 2011: 10% reduction on budgets in the Spanish public sector (universities included)
- But the worst of all has been incertainty
 - 80% of BDC expenditure is paid by libraries to publishers directly (inside consortial licenses)
 - Universities have committed to preserve their economic contribution to the consortial agreements
 - but ... (on average) 41% of their budget is tied to BDC!

2011: building a strategy

Just in case (and to be prepared to cope with any situation at any time) ...

- Endorsed ICOLC and SELL positions about the crisis
- A letter explaining our situation (and asking for a 5% decrease on costs) was sent to all BDC vendors and publishers
 - Many of them were sensitive and flexible
 - on average, final price increases are now between 0% and 3%
 - In several cases, license period is now shorter than it used to be
- CBUC acquisitions librarians' group evaluated our shared digital library in order to assign each e-resource a value and also a level of *strategicness*

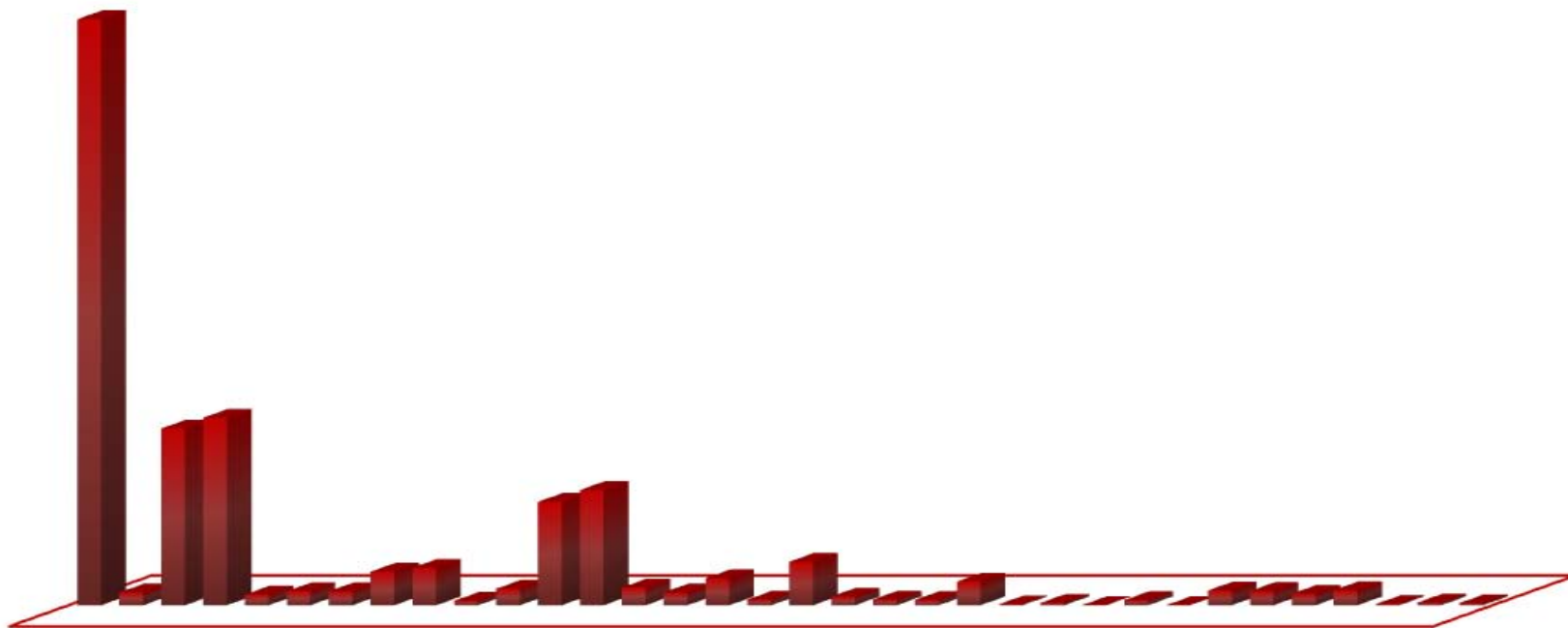
Which is BDC “core collection”?

Results of the analysis

- 14 CBUC members analyzed 34 consortial subscriptions according to:
 - Usage statistics (+price per download)
 - Estimated impact on users and research
 - Is it a strategic resource in your institution?
- Highlighted results:
 - **Best valued e-resources at BDC are the most expensive too!**
 - **BDC can be sliced into 4 parts, according to the level of strategicness of its e-resources**

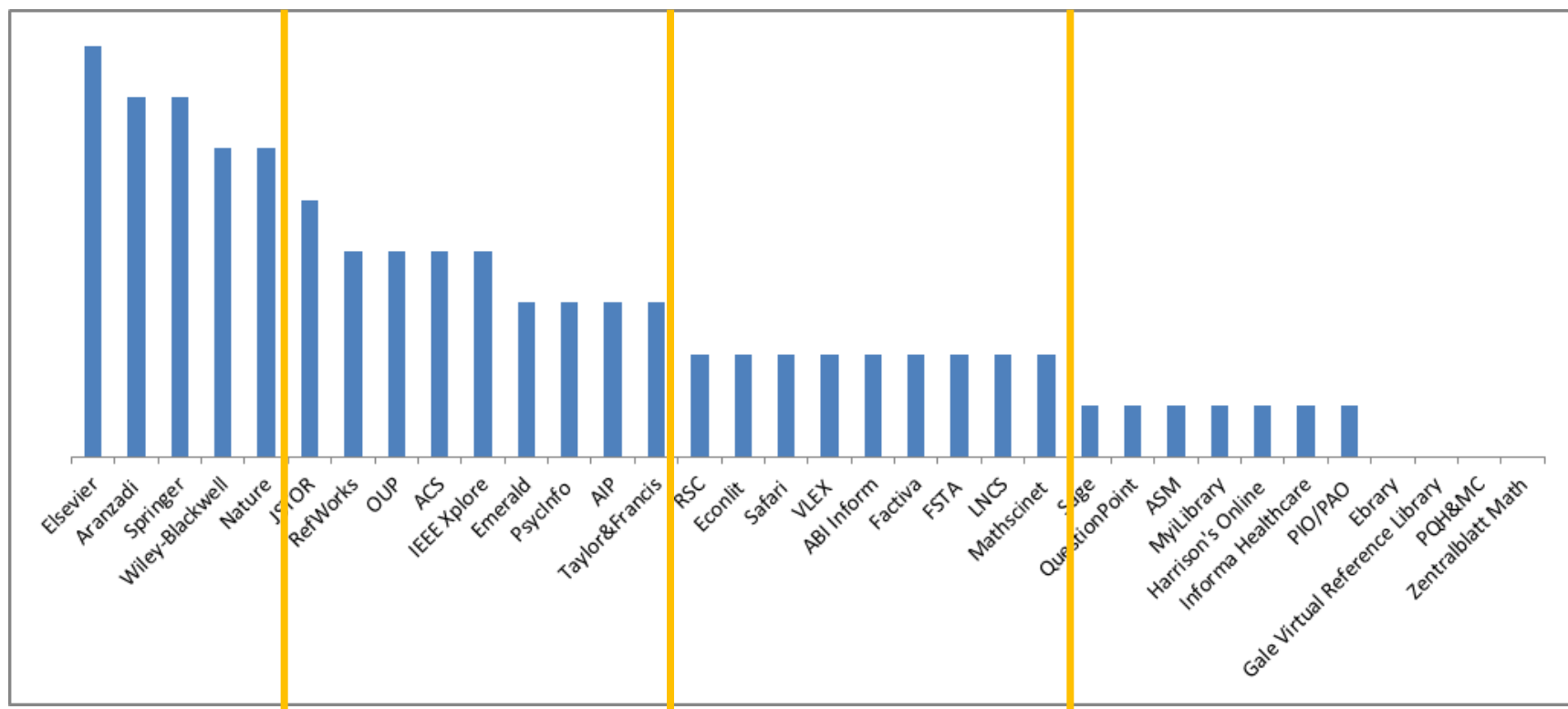


Most valued e-resources are the most expensive too



From left to right: best valued BDC e-resources according to CBUC members.
Height of the bars shows the cost of each e-resource.

BDC Core Collection



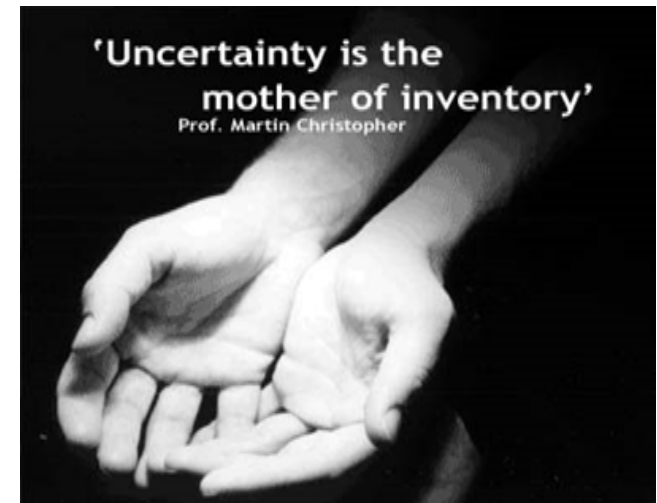
Height of bars shows how many CBUC members think the e-resource is strategic in their libraries.

Working with 3 different scenarios

- Scenario A : -10% cut “only” affects central money
 - *Cancellations already agreeded (databases):
ABI Inform, Safari Tech Books Online, VLEX*
- Scenario B: -5% reduction on CBUC members’ contributions
 - *This would mean -450.000€ (=cancel a big deal?)*
- Scenario C: -10% reduction on CBUC members’ contributions
 - *This would mean -900.000€ (=cancel a big deal +something else?)*

4. Now what?

- A lot of meetings have been done
 - But still no clear instructions ...
- However:
 - CBUC members need a relief in their budgets!
 - And we already have some “jokers” just in case ...
 - Reductions on price increase have been obtained from most publishers
 - We are best prepared to deal with next years' situation
 - And now we better know our collection (and ourselves)!



Some final thoughts ...

- **Cancellations are not a solution**
- Try to preserve as much licensed content as possible, but also:
 - Look for new partners to help you pay the bill
 - CBUC is working to include Catalan research centers in its projects (including the digital library)
 - Explore open access
as a user and also as a content producer

Thanks!

SAVE OUR LIBRARY!

I'LL FIGHT TO
SAVE IT
WILL YOU?

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