Academic Complete UKI Helps University of Reading Offer Robust Collection to Researchers and Staff Alike

"Academic Complete UKI offers a wide range and large amount of content for a predetermined cost, making it easier to budget for," shared Rachael Scott during a recent conversation that we had with the Content Manager at University of Reading Library and her colleague Lucy Ardill, Senior Library Assistant. These two librarians are on the team that serve the University's 17,000 students and 2,000 staff members who teach and lead research in subjects that span the curriculum, from Arts to Humanities to Economics, Social Sciences, Life Sciences and Business.

Read on for more about how Academic Complete UKI, the first regionalized version of the award-winning subscription that's designed specifically for UK and Irish researchers, is helping the University of Reading facilitate teaching, learning and research outcomes.

ProQuest (PQ): Let's start at the beginning — what led you to offer Academic Complete UKI to your researchers?

Rachael: We were looking to provide a wide range of academic material, encouraging and enabling our students to undertake more independent research. However, we found with some models our allocated budget was depleted much faster than we anticipated, meaning we needed to spend more to maintain access to the content. This meant these models were just not sustainable for us. In addition, the preparation and setup time for Academic Complete UKI was simple and seamless.

PQ: How does Academic Complete UKI integrate with the other ebook and print content that you offer your researchers?

Lucy: We have enabled the discovery of Academic Complete UKI titles through our discovery service, Summon, and we have uploaded the majority of the Academic Complete UKI MARC records to our Library Management System so users can find these titles through our catalogue alongside our other print and e-books. It is useful to be able to download MARC records myself from the ebrary portal — as ProQuest provides monthly update files for the new and also withdrawn ebooks from the package it is helpful to have access to up-to-date title lists and all the records when I need them.

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PQ: How are your students and researchers benefitting from Academic Complete UKI? Have you had any direct feedback from them?

Lucy: The usage statistics show our users are using and benefiting from the wide range of content available in the package. The growing number of Academic Complete UKI titles present on our reading lists illustrates the relevance and importance of the titles included – this point has been echoed by several of our Liaison Librarians. We understand that only a comparatively small proportion have seen usage so far, but we know that many of these are key titles often found on reading lists. The remaining content is academically relevant and is available to researchers and students wanting to conduct independent research. We will continue to review usage but we expect it to increase with time.

PQ: What about your staff? What have they shared about their experience with Academic Complete UKI?

Rachael: We have had positive feedback from our Liaison Librarians regarding the breadth of content included in the package – and also the relevance of titles for undergraduate courses, illustrated by the amount of Academic Complete UKI titles that appear on reading lists. These are titles that would have been purchased anyway using departmental funds, so the fact that they are included in the Academic Complete UKI package has allowed departments to save this money. Some staff have mentioned concerns from students and researchers about Adobe Digital Editions, but aside from this several mentioned the interface is well presented and easy to use.

Lucy (sitting) & **Rachael** (standing)

PQ: Would you recommend that fellow librarians add Academic Complete UKI to their collections?

Lucy: Yes, we would recommend libraries looking to provide more content to their users to consider Academic Complete UKI as we have found the setup and on-going maintenance for the subscription to be relatively simple in comparison to some other models. ProQuest has also been very helpful, allowing us time to trial the package before purchase and providing relevant usage statistics, enabling us to justify the value of purchasing a subscription.

ACADEMIC COMPLETE UKI USAGE FROM 01/08/15 – 31/07/16

49,955
user sessions

19,679
unique documents accessed

2,154
items on reading lists

2,154 entries on reading lists, and a total of 1,275 titles so far — reading lists are still being added

Learn more about Academic Complete UKI at **www.proquest.com**.

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