
Ebook Patron Driven Acquisition: Wellesley College case study

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Wellesley College

Size Matters

- Small, liberal arts, women's college
- Highly selective, undergraduate
- 2300 students 350 faculty
- Library Collection budget
 - Journals and databases
\$ 1,500,000
 - Monographs
\$ 600,000



Deciding to do PDA: Concerns

(True or False?)

- Collections will become non-scholarly, unbalanced
 - Inability to control cost
 - Not enough scholarly titles available
 - DRM restrictions – Interlibrary Loan
 - Staff time to maintain
 - Some patrons don't like e-books
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Selecting a vendor

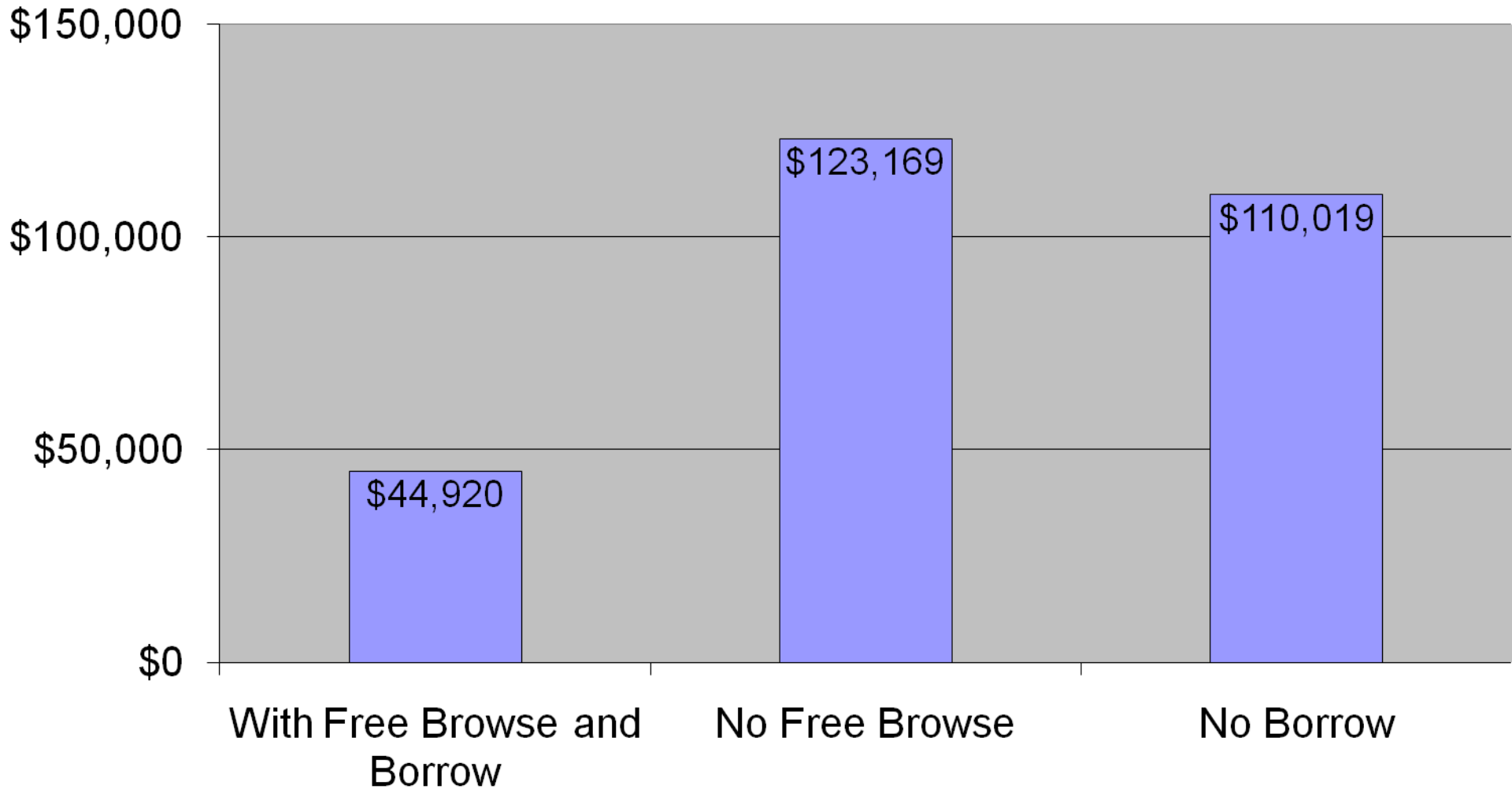
- Criteria spreadsheet

<http://bit.ly/PDAvendors>

- Important lessons learned:

- ❑ Clear copy printing displays
 - ❑ Multiple simultaneous users
 - ❑ Integration with book vendor
 - ❑ Free browse
 - ❑ Short term loan before purchase
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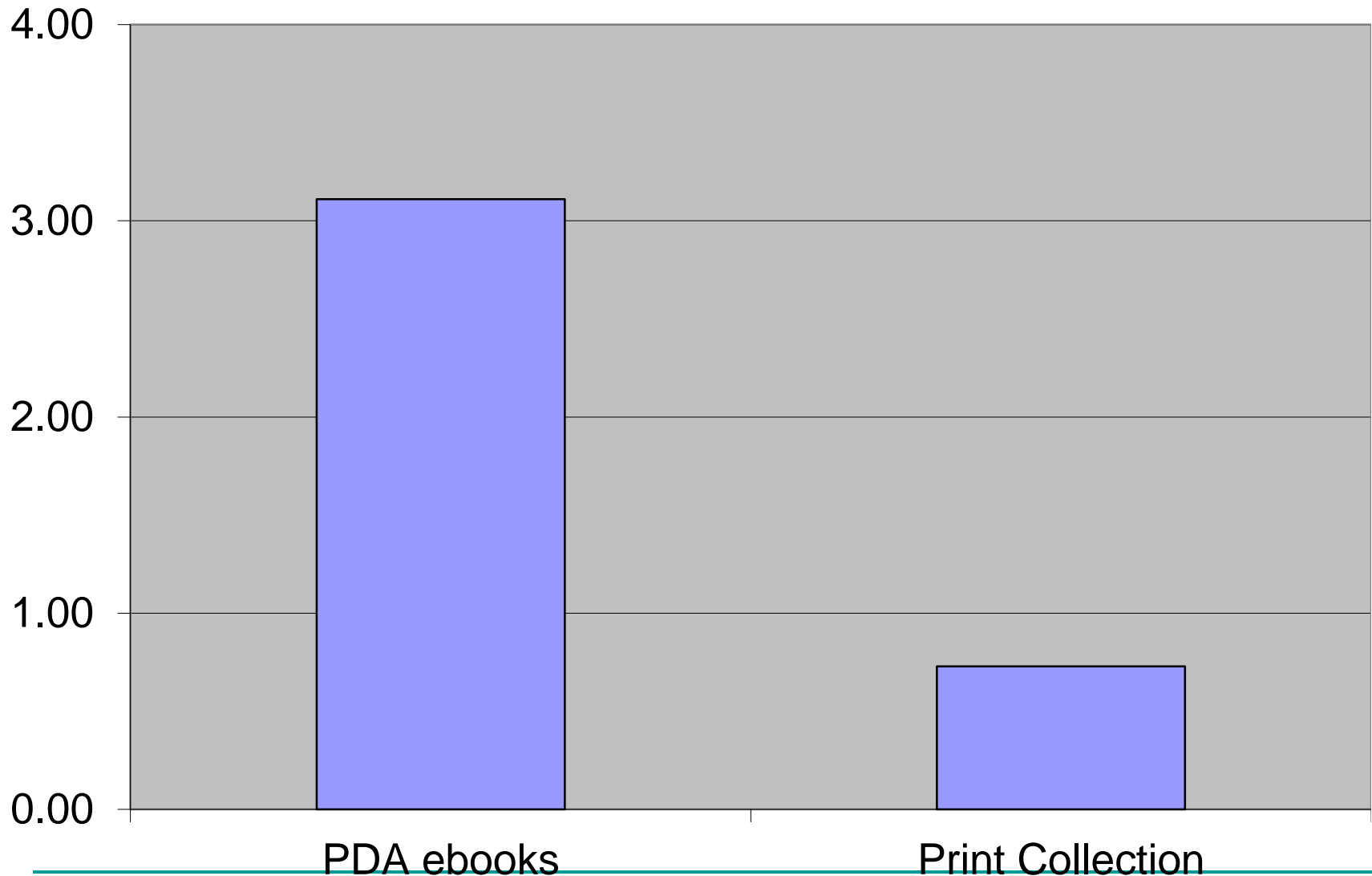
Importance of Free Browse and Borrow



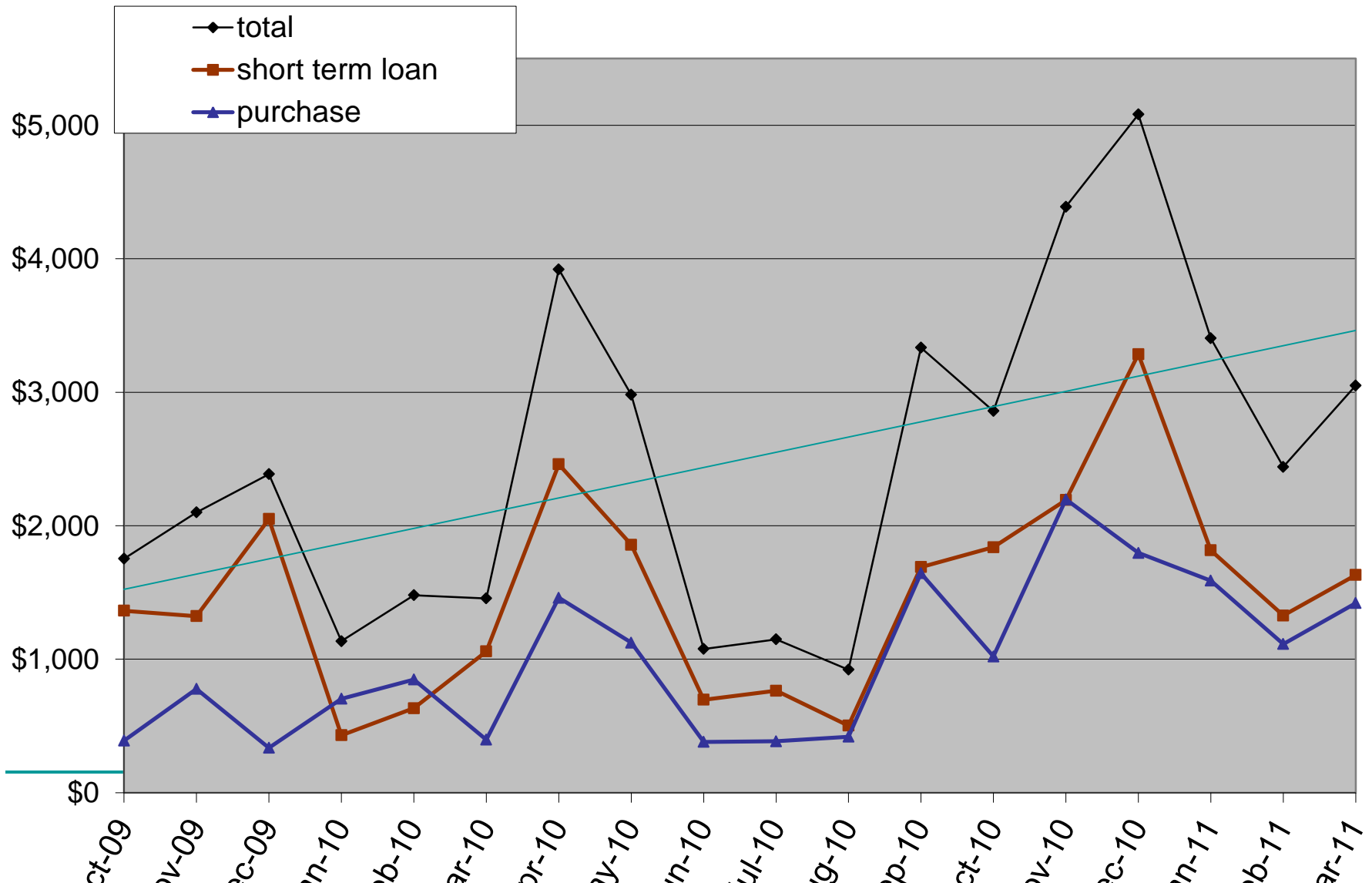
Use October 2009 – March 2011

- Number of titles browsed
 - 3915
 - Number of titles borrowed before purchase
 - 2015, total cost \$27,000
 - 51% of browsed titles
 - Number of titles purchased
 - 214, total cost \$18,000
 - 5% of browsed titles
 - 39% social science, 35% humanities, 26% science
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PDA circulation compared to print



Expenditure by month



Strategies for getting started

- Select vendor wisely
 - Start small (\$) but broad
 - Be prepared to evaluate and have a plan
 - increase funding if successful
 - withdraw records if unsustainable
 - Set your profile thoughtfully
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New frontiers for PDA

- Consortial PDA
 - Interlibrary loan
 - Handheld reading devices and iThings
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- Questions??
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