

E-Books in French university libraries: availability and first uses in Mathematics

Chérifa BOUKACEM
MCF, Lille 3 – Geriico
EPEF – ANR JC JC

Plan

- 1. Context and methodology**
- 2. Results and discussion**
- 3. Prospective conclusions**

1 – Context of the study and the central question

Why E-Books?

- Exploratory study
 - Continuity of the EPEF project
 - Contribution to national literature
 - Student interest in the question
 - Strong university demand
 - JISC National E-Book Observatory
 - Further progress of COUNTER reports
- => relative lack of experience in France**

One question, one goal

- What role does the electronic book have to play in the provision of access to digital knowledge?
- Clarify the E-Book phenomenon with disciplinary methods

A recurrent methodology

- Statistical approach
 - COUNTER : Version 3
 - ERE et ESGBU : a recent addition
 - Difficulties and lack of use
- The added value of interviews
 - Situate users' practices in their contexts of use
 - Offer a more detailed interpretation
- Panel
 - STM establishments
 - Lille, Lyon, Paris

Did you say "E-Book"?

- Cover v contents
- Contents and things that don't work
- "Comprehension – Representation" according to researchers
- A definition determined by availability
- The tablet, an "irrelevant" means of storage?

Mathematicians as library "bookworms"

- A specific disciplinary culture
- Contrasting practices of information gathering
- Prevalence of joint publications
- The role of the library and of library collections

=> Potential uses

E-Books: the complexity and instability of contents

- Actors: Publishers, agregators, (multidisciplinary and specialist)
 - Libraries, bookshops, search engines ...
 - Blurring the boundaries
- Economic models: disparity and variety
 - Determined by transactions between the parties involved

E-Books: availability in University Libraries

- Initial negotiations: 2006
- Acceleration, from 2008
- 22 projects negotiated in 2009 (CeB)
 - Principally English language (3/4)
 - Aimed at undergrad. and masters' students
 - Focused upon content
 - Originating from publishers and distributors
 - Could be better sign-posted

Availability in Maths: Content

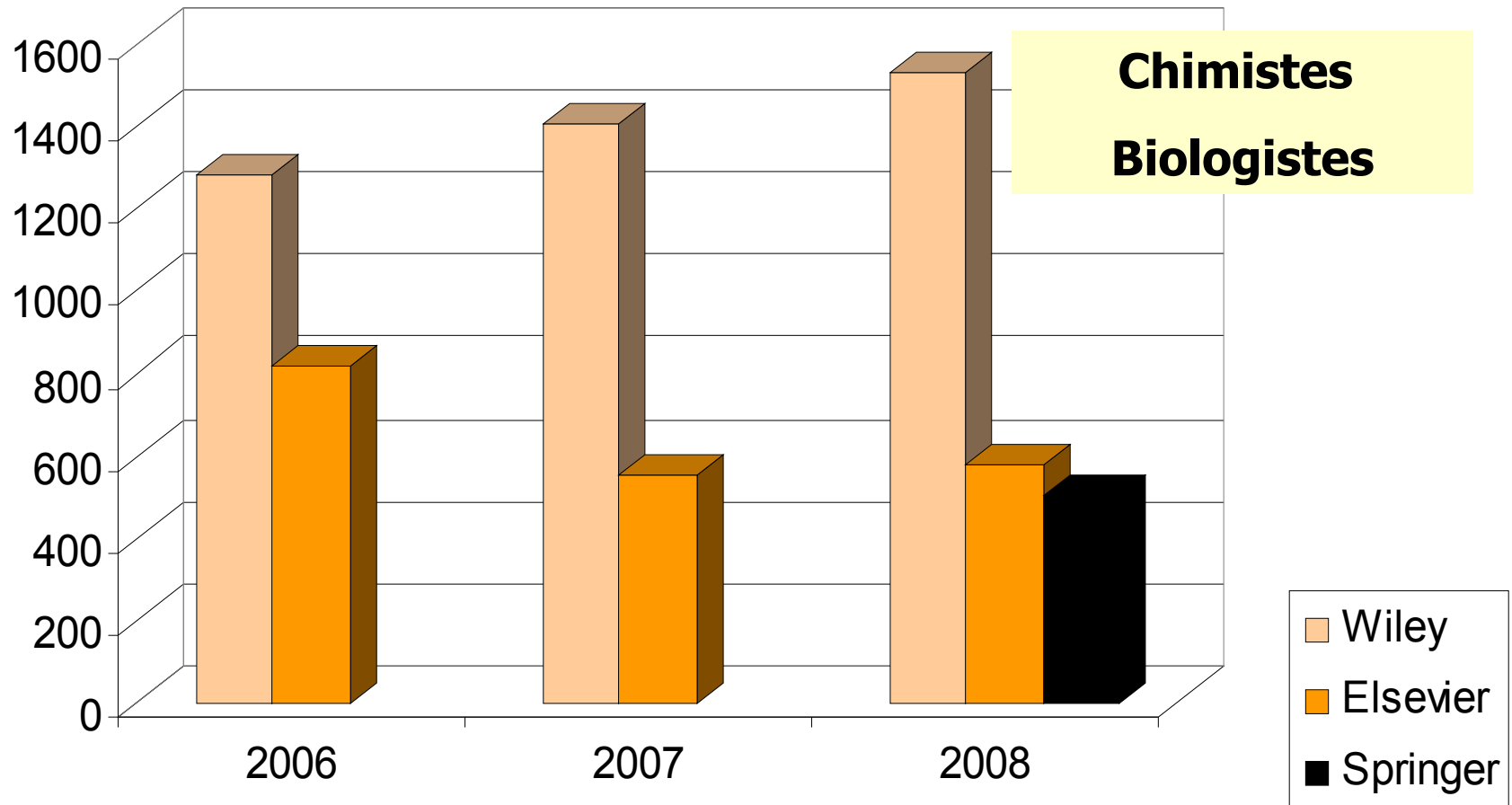
- Originating from scientific publishers
 - Springer, Wiley, Universalis, Wolters Kluwer,
 - Between 100 and 350 titles per publisher
- A rather insignificant availability
 - Not highly specialised
 - Almost entirely in English

Availability in Maths : means of acquisition

- Annual subscriptions
- Purchase of collections
 - 30 day tests
 - Connection with the platform
 - Market variations and variations of price
- Developments in the transposition of the “Journal” model

3 – Results and Discussion

Embryonic use "STM establishment"



“Embryonic” use: Mathematicians

- Lectures notes in Mathematics
 - 1997 titles
 - 502 consultations
 - 92% of titles are never consulted
 - Ignorance and/or inadequacy of available resources

Pirating and other uses

- Pirating or alternative availability?
- A "peer to peer" organisation
- Unknown applications
- Full-text searches
 - MAC et Google

The “Collector’s Mission”

- The importance of the collection
- The importance of the private library and the notion of property
- Sustainability of access
- The importance of paper

Availability and use of E-Books reviewed by mathematicians

**A model of
content**

Paid Access
Scientific publishers

Pirated Resources
"Mass scans"
"Seminars"

Open Access
Gallica ; NUMDAM ; Project Euclid

Prospective Conclusions

- The E-Book revolution has already happened(?)
 - “Alternative access” and its uses
 - Blurring of “(e-)journals” and “e-books”
 - Consultation practices and document typology
 - The effect of the digital library and PDF

=> An offer that needs to be thought and integrated with the free, the alternative, and the print book