Collection Development of Electronic Databases at College of Marin

The faculty librarians are responsible for developing the database collection at College of Marin. Other faculty members are encouraged to review library collections, including the database collection, in their subject area and to make recommendations for purchase and deselection. Collection evaluation by subject experts on the faculty is the most effective means of ensuring adequacy of collection size and level of quality. Because librarians are in the best position to observe the overall use and development of the collection, they are ultimately responsible for the quality and balance of the total collection. In lieu of an acquisitions librarian on staff, the library director or an appointed representative coordinates the collection development process.

In this time of declining budgets, the library's priority is to identify and maintain a core collection of electronic resources that benefit the greatest number of students. With this in mind, not all databases or other resources that are requested by departments or programs are able to be purchased by the library. In such cases, an electronic resource may be purchased directly by a department or program if the following criteria is met:

1. The library has declined to add the database to the collection.
2. Departmental request for funding the database is included in Program Review and approved by administration.

In such cases, the requesting department assumes all initial and ongoing financial responsibility related to the database. The access point to all databases at College of Marin, regardless of funding source, is via the MyCom portal. Once administration has approved the purchase of a database, the appropriate dean or department chair will contact the library director and IT staff, in order to ensure timely implementation of the resource.