UFC Mandate Survey: Analysis of Results

During the Undergraduate Foundation Collection (UFC) renewal process in 2014/15, BC ELN Partners expressed interest in re-examining the UFC. As part of this review, the BC ELN Steering Committee has surveyed Partner Libraries to gauge attitudes regarding whether Partners wish BC ELN to investigate a common suite.

The survey's purpose was to discern if Partner Libraries wanted BC ELN to investigate a common resource suite in the future. It was not to discuss whether resources in the current UFC are the right ones or which resources should be included in the future.

Survey results are summarized below, with full responses listed by institution in the appendix. These results have been reviewed by the Steering Committee.

Regardless of how BC ELN moves forward, products currently comprising the UFC will likely still be available to Partner Libraries via BC ELN – whether as part of a common suite or as opt-in/opt-out licenses.

Background:

The current Undergraduate Foundation Collection (UFC) is a bundled common suite of databases that has been licensed by BC ELN since 2008. For the purpose of this survey, a *common resource suite is defined as a group of 2 or more electronic resources to which all members in a consortium subscribe*.

Some quantitative benefits to licensing a common suite of resources include:
- More deeply discounted pricing for the common products than could be achieved for opt-in licenses
- Securing low annual increases
- Deeper discounts for other products from the same vendor(s)

Some qualitative benefits to licensing a common suite of resources include:
- Increasing equity between institutions
- Facilitating students transferring between institutions (see Student Transfer, Success, and Mobility in BC Post-Secondary Institutions, see http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/synthesisofresearch.pdf)
- Enhancing the effectiveness of provincial services such as AskAway

Potential drawbacks to participation in a common suite include:
- Diminishing individual libraries' autonomy in the area of collection development
- Directing institutional funds towards resources that may not be the highest collection development priority for individual libraries
- Providing unequal value for individual institutions

Demographics of Respondents:

100% participation among BC ELN Partner Libraries
33 total respondents.
- 16 four-year
- 17 two-year

Q1. Does having a common resource suite impact how your institution develops library collections and services?

Responses:
Yes – 29
No – 4 (2 two-year, 2 four-year)

Summary:
Many libraries from both two- and four-year institutions emphasized cost saving benefits of a common suite approach. Several expressed concerns over how this approach limits flexibility. Some noted that the UFC has impacted collection development decisions, although opinions vary as to whether the impact is positive or negative.

Common Themes:

A common suite approach …

- Provides cost savings (15)
- Reduces flexibility and imposes budget restraints (8)
- Has impacted collection development decisions (databases and discovery) (7)
- Provides a broad multi-disciplinary collection (7)
- Has had little or no impact other than providing cost savings (4)
- Facilitates student transfer (3)
- Obliges libraries to participate at a higher level of access than needed/desired (3)
- Showcases provincial post-secondary collaboration (3)
- Constrains libraries to duplicate existing holdings (3)
- Enables libraries to focus on developing niche collections (3)
- Encourages equity among institutions (2)
- Reduces competition between vendors (2)

Q2. Does your library want BC ELN to investigate and negotiate a common suite of resources on behalf of all Partner Libraries?

Responses:
Yes – 31
No – 2 (both four-year)*

Summary:
The majority of respondents (31/33) answered that, yes, they want BC ELN to investigate and negotiate a common suite of resources. Comments reveal some division on certain aspects of the common suite. Six of the "yes" responses were qualified: some noted that their support depends on the products selected, or a change to the cost-sharing model; some hope for an opt-in/opt-out model; and one wants the license term further extended.

The two "no" responses, both from four-year institutions, were also qualified: one suggesting an alternative bundling model (UBC) and one challenging the efficacy of mandatory participation (RRU).

* Upon further discussion following the closure of the survey, UBC expressed interest in BC ELN moving forward with investigating a common resource suite. No changes have been made to their institutional responses in the appendix or this summary. Therefore, there is only one institution that feels it is not feasible to move forward with investigating a common suite.

Common Themes:

- A common suite approach provides cost savings (12)
- Some desire to continue with a common suite, but change it in some way (6)
- A common suite approach encourages equity among institutions (5)
- A common suite facilitates student transfer (4)
- Negotiating and maintaining a common suite provides staff-time savings (4)
- Some would prefer an opt-in/opt-out model (3)
- Institutions want flexibility (3)
- Aggregation suites duplicate other licensed content (3)
- A common suite approach showcases provincial post-secondary collaboration (2)
- A common suite facilitates provincial services (2)
- Interest in a common suite depends on the products licensed (2)

Q3. If a common resource suite were no longer provided through BC ELN, what, if any, would be the implications for your institution?

Summary:
The majority of institutions stated that the loss of a common suite would have significant cost implications, including paying more for the same resources, and/or other resources. Two-year institutions were more concerned about the potential impact of the loss of a common suite compared to four-year institutions. Partner Libraries noted that the increased costs would force them to cancel products. Many stated that they would need to undertake extensive evaluations to determine how to move forward.

Common themes:

If a common suite were no longer provided, libraries would …

- Pay higher costs for the same resources and/or other resources from the same vendor (20)
- Cancel products, leaving fewer resources available (12)
- Engage in extensive evaluations (9)
- Have more flexibility in resource choice (4)
- Reduce level of access to current UFC products (2)
- Lose collaborative messaging (2)
- Consider re-evaluating discovery choices (2)
- Face difficulties servicing AskAway (2)
- Be less equitable (2)

Q4. Any further comments or questions?

Summary: Responses to Q4 were varied, with few common themes. Many respondents reiterated their thoughts from earlier comments. See the appendix for the complete set of responses.

Appendix: Detailed Responses

Q1: Does having a common resource suite impact how your institution develops library collections and services?

Institution	Q1.	What is the impact?
Acsenda School of Management	Yes	We are small and the discounts received allows us to offer a more fully developed collection than we otherwise could.
Alexander College	Yes	The core suite dictates who will be our main vendor - we organize our subscriptions around it, since it's our primary purchase, and it's really the main reason we chose EDS as our discovery service. Since it's a requirement, all acquisitions stem from it as a given.
BCIT	No	We purchase based on what is needed to support curriculum.
Camosun College	Yes	The common resource suite helps keep pricing increases in check and presumably allows better pricing that what would be achieved by a smaller group. There is also value in knowing these resources are in place--saves us staff time. Since the common resources have been Ebsco products, this has also influenced other choices and investments we have made eg. for discovery service.
Capilano University	Yes	We would have to investigate other core undergraduate resources. The UFC did impact our choice of a discovery layer, as we chose EBSCO's EDS.
College of New Caledonia	Yes	Services - appreciate having key common resources at both local post-secondary libraries. Common interface for students. Good quality content. Equity of access. Collections - responsible approach to purchasing (savings). Appreciate the quality of resources because they are chosen by the group.
College of the Rockies	Yes	-Discounted and affordable resources -Facilitates student success and transfer, as they are already familiar with the resources
Columbia Bible College	Yes	We are a small institution with low FTE and would never be able to afford the common resource suite on our own. Also, because it's a common suite that other colleges and universities use....I am much better at justifying the purchase of this to my administrators. If it wasn't a common suite, I could see my administrators suggesting that we look for cheaper, smaller and not as comprehensive databases. Also the common UFC is such a comprehensive collection that meets the needs of our students without having to get other individual and more specific databases. (Except Psychology and Religion)

Columbia College	Yes	If a suite costs less than the purchase of individual databases, this will free up funds for the addition of other databases. The UFC is such a suite.
Douglas College	No	it doesn't really impact us because we would still subscribe to the Academic Search Complete and Business Source Complete. We like both resources. instead of receiving 2 emails regarding the renewal of Academic Search Complete and Business Source Complete, we now receive only one for both resources. It could become a problem if we wanted to only subscribe to one of the 2 resources. Since we are happy we both resources, it's nice to have them under a common resource suite so that we can have a better discount.
Emily Carr University of Art + Design	Yes	The common resources were very affordable and beneficial to us when we had the option of the Premier vs Complete collections. For a school our size with a highly specialized curriculum - being forced to upgrade to Complete meant that to afford the price increase, we had to drop other databases. The Complete versions don't always serve us well. We dropped AP Image Archive (EBSCO), all the Wilson products (EBSCO) and Encyclopedia Britannica. The benefit of the Complete products did not match the price increase we were faced with. For small schools like ours, licensing products that exceed the need of our curriculum can be a huge money drain.
Justice Institute of British Columbia	Yes	It forces us to buy a level of database that we would not buy if we had a choice. However, this is not a bad thing. Our students have access to more resources. Also it is easier to defend this purchase with senior management as we have no choice in purchasing more databases and can argue that this is a provincial initiative.
KPU	Yes	Collection development/cancellation decisions have been made based on the content currently in the UFC. I am more concerned with having long term access and commitment to a stable suite of resource for my own institution rather than being concerned that all ELN libraries need to have the same core suite.
Langara College	Yes	Yes. The core suite serves as the foundation of our electronic resource collection, providing a broad, multidisciplinary collection of academic journal articles that we can then supplement with more specialized resources. As an institution that focuses on university transfer courses, it is integral that we share some core resources with the larger institutions our students then go on to attend.
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	Yes	If the databases are relevant to our current disciplines, then I would not purchase as many books for that discipline.

North Island College	No	While realizing costs savings, other factors relating to collections are not affected.
Northern Lights College	Yes	We require a common suite of resources for all of "the quantitative and qualitative benefit"s listed on this Survey's Preamble. As a small rural College with a stagnant budget, the "negative effect" on our College would be astronomical if ELN no longer provided a common resource suite, as our expenses grow each year, but our budget does not. We need access to a common suite of resources, with those discounted prices and low annual increases for library resource suites with access to provincial services, such as AskAway. Otherwise, we will be unable to provide equal and equitable access of collection materials and library services to our students; and this will have a negative effect on our students' education and learning. If we had to pay for each database individually, without the Consortia, for example, we would potentially lose more than the bulk of our databases. We also would not be able to support our College Mission Statement, which states: Northern Lights College provides the educational means for the continued growth and prosperity of our students, and the communities and businesses across northern British Columbia.
Northwest Community College	Yes	Having money designated for those particular resources limits the amount of money available for other choices of resources.
Okanagan College	Yes	We rely on a suite of core resources to cover some fundamental student and faculty needs for e-journals and other e-resources. We find this an efficient use of our collections budget, leaving us more money to allocate for other collections needs.
Quest University Canada	Yes	Pricing of the UFC is quite high for my size of Library, so there is a definite impact on the collections budget each year.
Royal Roads University	Yes	The impact is not always positive or negative, but there is an impact. There are pluses and minuses: in some ways, and sometimes, it makes us less flexible in terms of acquisitions choices than we may want to be and requires us to pay more money than we might otherwise and gives us less leverage in terms of license terms. At other times, it's the exact opposite. In terms of a 'suite' of common resources, it's becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the high levels of overlap that we have between some of the publisher databases and the aggregator databases, which is the case for the products in the UFC in particular. While these particular products had a 'core' kind of presence when the UFC started, I'm not sure that they

		can be seen that way now within each institution's collections matrix. This question overall seems similar to how the CNSLP consortium started, with mandatory buy in for a set group of products; rightly or wrongly, that arrangement was dissolved because it wasn't transparent enough for members as to how those costs were split across products and across the membership. I think that it has perhaps become too difficult to have mandatory buy in for any suite of products and have every institution able to justify its participation in that deal within their own institution. Budgetary pressures are such that overlapping content is a huge challenge, and means that those heavily vested in publisher content look to reduction in aggregated content for savings.
Selkirk College	Yes	Pricing and simplicity are the benefits of a common resource suite, and a large multi-discipline suite like ASC gives our students and faculty most of what they need for our level of courses.
Simon Fraser University	No	Because these resources are chosen collectively we don't look into competitor products, but our collections overall are large enough that this suite doesn't make a big difference in our collection development activities.
Thompson Rivers University	Yes	The answer is kind of yes and no. We have more databases from Ebsco than from any other vendor, and some we have had for a very long time. The content, the search interface and customer service from Ebsco are, in my opinion, better than, for example, Proquest. As I recall, sometimes there were incentives from ELN to subscribe to products that support our programs – e.g. Hospitality and Tourism Complete. The eHLbc core suite of resources also includes many Ebsco products. In the last few years, we have cancelled some Ebsco products where there was too much duplication with existing licenses. We have also resisted subscribing to such full-text databases as Education Source and SocIndex that include content that is duplicated in other Ebsco databases and is not core to the two disciplines. We do subscribe to a lot of databases that are not hosted by Ebsco, and we certainly would not exclude consideration of a non-Ebsco database. Since we licensed Ebsco's EDS, the advantages of having Ebsco products are even more apparent, and we are happy that so many databases from other vendors are targets in EDS. It is unfortunate that Proquest databases are not included as a target in EDS. This appears to be contributing to lower usage of

		Proquest databases and may ultimately lead us to some cancellations
Trinity Western University	Yes	Helps us with providing a common suite of products which all students are able to access (including both our students plus others who visit our library)
UNBC Geoffrey Weller Library	Yes	Only marginally in the sense that basics are covered, however costs are relatively contained, and collaboration is important in terms of political support
University Canada West	Yes	The commitment to a common resource impact our (small) library in several ways: - forces us to commit a significant portion of our budget to purchase the common resources - this prevents us from adding other resources that our users might find useful - removes the flexibility of subscribing to different levels of coverage for the included resources
University of British Columbia Library	Yes	Common resource suites negatively impact library collection development as there is reduced flexibility in decision making at renewal time. Resources that may no longer be needed for the collection are tied to products that are required. There is also a lack of information on the individual costs of component products in the resource suite. This reduces the ability to analyse cost effectiveness and the overall agility in collection development.

University of the Fraser Valley	Yes	In theory, not thinking specifically about the products in the suite, this affects us in that we would want to participate in a common suite (for some of the qualitative and quantitative reasons you've provided), and this might mean adding resources we do not currently license and force us to make decisions about those we do, to create space in the budget. In practice, we licensed the current Ebsco resources (or versions thereof) before they became part of the common suite, and so the savings we realized through participation helped us add other resources.
University of Victoria	Yes	From a strictly budgetary perspective, committing to a common resource suite over a multi-year agreement reduces the flexibility to respond to changing needs. Cost sharing models need to be equitable and based on value to the organization. Licensing resources collectively should include cost reduction for all members and increased collections coverage (with as little overlap or duplication). The current common resources licensing agreement is without the provision of any post cancellation access or ownership. The intent and philosophy behind licensing a suite of common resources on a provincial level was a worthwhile initiative at the time it was introduced. Since the original agreement however, the landscape has shifted with more options available to access the same content (recognizing we are not being asked to comment on the content specifically).
Vancouver Community College	Yes	We are relying on universal coverage and discounted pricing for the common suite

Vancouver Island University	Yes	Our commitment to the UFC means a commitment of collections dollars that we might otherwise redirect to other resources. While having access to the resources included in the current ELN core suite affects our local library collections and services planning somewhat (e.g. we plan library instruction around available resources, make subscription renewal and cancellation decisions based on our available e-resources), the fact that the common suite is common to all BC institutions does not really factor in to our planning at the local level – and in fact, if we weren't constrained by our involvement in the core suite, we might make different planning choices. For example, if we had $20K freed up from dropping a core suite, we would most likely not spend that $20K on aggregator databases. Because VIU is a CRKN member and has good access to primary academic literature through that organization, in its current incarnation the ELN UFC is not a game-changer for us as much as it may have been 15 or 20 years ago. However, we can see that when planning province-wide initiatives (e.g. AskAway) or inter-institutional collaborations beyond the strictly local level, a common suite approach would definitely affect service/collection development and planning. For instance a common suite could theoretically aid in curricular planning and design among similar departments/disciplines at different institutions – though at VIU we haven't heard of this happening around the UFC in particular.
Yukon College Library	Yes	Having a common suit of broad, multidisciplinary databases is very helpful because it sets the basis for some "common content" between libraries in BC and the north. Considering that several of our students end up transferring to other bigger universities in the south, a common core suit is certainly a plus, and we can focus our efforts in terms on collection development on northern related materials instead.

Q2: Does your library want BC ELN to investigate and negotiate a common suite of resources on behalf of all Partner Libraries?

Institution	Q2.	Why or why not?
Acsenda School of Management	Yes	Yes I think the notion of a common suite is good for all libraries. Perhaps organizing it along subjects lines (Business, Fine Art, Anthro, etc..) instead of level (Undergrad)would allow for more customization.
Alexander College	Yes	We greatly appreciate the consortial discount, which is one of the primary motivations for BC ELN's existence in the first place. Member voting as to which would be best would be useful, but a core suite makes the most sense since it capitalizes on the large number of participating member institutions - best bang for our buck.
BCIT	Yes	Depends on which resources are included and the commitment required. We cannot pay for resources that we would not select otherwise, and are not totally relevant to our curriculum.
Camosun College	Yes	Yes, with the caveat we want long terms for the common suite, at a minimum 5 years
Capilano University	Yes	ELN's role in investigating and negotiating saves us time otherwise we would have to do this ourselves, and the current undergraduate foundation collection has served us well.
College of New Caledonia	Yes	It's not clear if other databases are being drawn into this. We like the current bundle (Academic Search + Business Source) and are already committed to e-HLbc health bundle - so can't see expanding or redefining the current content focus.
College of the Rockies	Yes	It is not possible for us to afford variety of resources on our own, unless they are negotiated for the Partner Libraries through BC ELN.
Columbia Bible College	Yes	Absolutely. For me personally, I don't have the energy, expertise, and time to investigate and negotiate.
Columbia College	Yes	It depends on what a suite would contain.
Douglas College	Yes	i would like ELN to keep investigating and negotiating a common suite of resources. However, i can see how if could be a problem if we didn't like the resources that would be in the package. As long as library can opt out, i think it's a good idea for ELN to keep looking at a common suite. However, if ELN was going to decide to stop investigating and negotiating a common suite of resources, i don't think it would have an impact on the way we subscribe to resources.
Emily Carr University of Art + Design	Yes	Yes, we are interested in the investigation to see if in fact there are cost savings and what the common resources might be.

Justice Institute of British Columbia	Yes	Please use a formula that does not penalize institutions that already subscribe to some of the resources. Also, ensure that small libraries with fewer FTEs are considered when developing the formula. Specialized libraries also need consideration. For example career/vocational institutions that do not have as much of a need for the current academic UFC collection. But it is important for all post-secondary institutions to provide the same access to students. Perhaps include in your formula, a discount for career/vocational institutions as was done with the Access Copyright License (20%). Currently career/vocational institutions may be subsidizing larger more academic institutions.
KPU	Yes	A qualified yes - it's really a toss up between yes and no. "Yes" from a perspective of supporting equitable access across libraries but that may not be enough of a reason to do this work. But "no," from a perspective of wanting to maintain a commitment to a stable set of resources for KPU Library for our own planning and collection development purposes. If we were able to get a reasonable price for ASC and BSC outside of a common suite approach, we would not be forced to switch if the content in the license were changed.

But there is also the argument that the KPU library, along with others, may be moving to a point where these multi-disciplinary databases are less necessary for scholarly content as we join more publisher packages and as discovery layer searchability improves. It might then be less important to us which big multi-disciplinary package we go with if we are trying to keep up our content in the areas of trade/industry/news publications rather than scholarly publications. |
Langara College	Yes	Yes. We rely heavily on the large multidisciplinary collection we currently get through ELN for content, and the price discounts available through ELN are extremely helpful in our ability to effectively manage our collections budget.
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	Yes	financial savings
North Island College	Yes	Based on the benefits in the introduction, important to NIC (positive experience for students transferring to other institutions, vendor discounts and influence on vendor negotiations). As well, ease of renewals for us.
Northern Lights College	Yes	Absolutely, yes!
See my response to your first question for my reasons.

Northwest Community College	Yes	We like having similar resources to other institutions for our students who are transferring. We also benefit from the pricing model of a common suite. As a smaller institution, it is also a good message for us to send that we are using the same resources as larger institutions (obviously not all of the same resources, but overlap).
Okanagan College	Yes	... but this is not an endorsement of a particular common resource suite, as we would need a chance to reassess our needs based on the specific resources contained in the common suite. Some things that speak in favour of a common suite are a common experience for BC post-secondary students and those who assist them, e.g. via AskAway. In the end, it might be the case that there is not enough commonality of interest among BC ELN libraries to justify a common suite.
Quest University Canada	Yes	I believe the positive outcomes outweigh most concerns.
Royal Roads University	No	My no is particularly within the context of the current products for the UFC, but perhaps overall. Even with EHLBC, the core suite really hangs on one product, albeit a publisher product. Again, I think the mandatory participation piece is just too challenging; collections are such a balancing act of institutional needs, despite that it likely has provided the system overall in BC a savings in the past. The environment around the UFC has shifted and this is one more of the 'big deals' that is cracking, and some of the overall cracks are between sizes of institution, overall mandates, and the balance of participation in other collections consortia.
Selkirk College	Yes	Again, one less thing to have to evaluate/negotiate on.
Simon Fraser University	Yes	For the benefit of transfer students (we have many at our institution). For the benefit of all ELN members, especially smaller libraries
Thompson Rivers University	Yes	We believe that the quantitative and qualitative benefits of a common suite described in your preamble outweigh the potential drawbacks.
Trinity Western University	Yes	1. helps the province provide a common suite of products 2. these products are available at a more reasonable price
UNBC Geoffrey Weller Library	Yes	Research on common points of cooperation important

University Canada West	Yes	By pooling resources and speaking with a unified voice, ELN can negotiate better terms (especially financial) with the vendors; in our opinion, this is a reasonable price to pay for the loss of flexibility in choosing the particular resources included in UFC.
University of British Columbia Library	No	For the same reasons as stated in Q. 1, especially in the current condition where the exchange rate has negatively impacted collection budgets by such a large amount. Cost savings realized by bundling products would have to be in the order of 30 - 40% to assist collection reduction programs. However, another possible approach could be to perform vendor suite negotiations rather than resource suite bundles (i.e. Having options for suites available from multiple vendors, AND having the suites themselves be flexible under each vendor). This might allow libraries more flexibility to choose their own vendor common resource suite, especially in a provincial setting where academic libraries are situated in institutions with varied teaching and research expectations.
University of the Fraser Valley	Yes	In addition to all the reasons you've outlined, I think being able to point to a common suite of resources shows that our various post-secondary institutions work collaboratively, and that we recognize the universality of the undergraduate.
University of Victoria	Yes	Yes - with the provision that it be optional participation Recognizing the diversity across partner libraries it is important to meet the needs of the majority of those libraries to provide access to content that they would not normally be able to license independently but not an agreement that required the participation of all partners. Much like with the CRKN licenses that are opt in/opt out depending on specific needs at each institution.
Vancouver Community College	Yes	It will ensure more deeply discounted pricing for the common products It will help to securing low annual increases It will enhance the effectiveness of provincial services such as AskAway

Vancouver Island University	Yes	VIU benefits from the great discounts ELN achieves through negotiating on behalf of all member libraries. And, we benefit from the leveling aspect of a common suite among BC post-secondary institutions. However, the common suite approach has in the past, and foreseeably will continue in future, limited our flexibility and choice when we are faced with needing to cancel resources because of budget constraints. Increasingly, we are feeling that aggregator products providing access to journal literature are the ones we would seek to cancel first, rather than journal packages licensed directly from publishers. And in the broader information marketplace we are seeing less and less of a need for the aggregator role in general. A common suite requiring participation by all ELN members, yet which provides little to no value and/or excessive financial burdens to some members, is not desirable. We would encourage the steering committee to consider more nuanced approaches, like a smaller "core" with opt-in layers, or a common suite that doesn't require an all-in participation model in order for the deal to hold together.
Yukon College Library	Yes	BC ELN has the expertise, the resources, and the time to negotiate a common suite on behalf of all partner libraries. It would be hard for us to pursue this type of agreement with vendors if we were on our own.

Q3. If a common resource suite were no longer provided through BC ELN, what, if any, would be the implications for your institution?

Acsenda School of Management	It's hard to say without knowing what it would do to pricing but a worst case would include reevaluating our current resources and cutting some of them.
Alexander College	Given our EDS subscription, we would have to maintain our subscription to Academic Search regardless of what the cost increase would be. This would likely have a negative impact on our ability to subscribe to other packages, either through ELN or elsewhere.
BCIT	Possible price increase to maintain current products
Camosun College	I expect the biggest impact would be costs. We would have to continue with core resources, potentially having to cut other resources should the costs be too much.
Capilano University	Would likely take additional time to investigate alternative databases, licenses, which could result in increased costs.
College of New Caledonia	We would expect the cost of individual databases to be higher - perhaps a lot higher. And that would mean re-evaluating everything we have (under a fixed budget scenario). We would likely have to drop some content. Back to "have" and "have not" institutions, not great for student services or librarians' ability to help or refer (e.g. AskAway choices would be more difficult and require more training).
College of the Rockies	Limited resources at the institution.
Columbia Bible College	I'm not sure what the implications are.....I guess it would be a steep learning curve. Budget wise.....it would most likely be horrendous and we wouldn't be able to afford the best databases for our institution.
Columbia College	If the databases are ones we would purchase anyway, we will have to examine if purchasing them individually may be too expensive and may have to make the tough decision to not proceed with the individual databases.
Douglas College	I don't think it would have a big impact. it would mean that we would have to subscribe separately to each resource. We could pick and choose what we want. We might have to pay a little bit more, but it would give us more freedom.
Emily Carr University of Art + Design	This is hard to know without knowing what those common resources could be but possibly it would give us the freedom to license exactly what we need. But that said, if the prices shoot up for the 2 big EBSCO databases that seem to be a necessity for us, then there would be no benefit.

Justice Institute of British Columbia	It would be more difficult to defend this high level of these type of general, more academic products to senior management. We would probably choose a lower level of the products to save money (e.g. purchase BSE rather than BSC).
KPU	Pricing would be more of a wildcard, but we would likely continue subscribing to ASP and BSC. If pricing went up significantly, it would have a large impact on us. We'd have to re-evaluate our commitment to these resources. If we decided to keep them at a much higher price, we'd likely have to cancel other resources.
Langara College	We would continue subscribing to those resources, but there would likely be an increase in price which would affect our ability to subscribe to other resources, ultimately affecting how we can best support our faculty and students. If the primary receiving institutions such as UBC or SFU decided to drop their subscriptions to those core resources, we would investigate other options for Langara as it is extremely beneficial to our students for our main interdisciplinary resources to match those are their transfer institutions.
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	Probably more expensive, meaning more cut-backs to my e-resources.
North Island College	Not sure other than probable budget implications
Northern Lights College	It would be devastating. See my response to question one.
Northwest Community College	The number of electronic resources we could afford.
Okanagan College	The main implication would likely be increased costs for some resources, leaving less money for other collections expenditures. Given the current relationship between the current core suite and EDS, it could also have an impact on the integration of our resources with our discovery service.
Quest University Canada	Depending upon whether BC ELN offers the databases as opt-in/-out, we would negotiate with the vendor for individual pricing. I would still want to subscribe to the two resources in the current UFC.
Royal Roads University	It would greatly depend on how Ebsco reacts, which will of course depend on how other institutions react. The UFC has become so tied up in how Ebsco 'rationalizes' prices across its various databases that it is impossible to tell ahead of time, but that is one of the unfortunate aspects of the UFC collection being tied to a single vendor.
Selkirk College	I would still want to subscribe to the same resources, although that would probably meaning less favorable pricing.

Simon Fraser University	We would conduct an evaluation to decide if we needed replacement products. Between Web of Science, the fulltext journal packages we get, disciplinary A&I tools, we might not subscribe to a large general academic product like Academic Search Elite, and we'd evaluate the Business one vs other options on the market.
Thompson Rivers University	We might have to pay more for our licenses, but we assume that ELN would still be negotiating them and that we could get a discount. These are benefits to our membership in ELN that we appreciate very much.
Trinity Western University	We might well have to scale back (e.g., Academic Search Complete to Premier, etc.)
UNBC Geoffrey Weller Library	Greater costs and loss of collaborative messaging
University Canada West	The answer depends on the difference between ELN-negotiated prices and the prices secured through own negotiations. If this difference is too great, we would likely cancel one of the resources, which would seriously affect the breadth and the depth of the coverage in a core subject for our University (business).
University of British Columbia Library	We would look at the component product parts of any common resource suite no longer provided through BC ELN. Through an established renewal analysis workflow we would determine if the component parts met current information needs and were cost effective, and/or whether other products could be better replacements.
University of the Fraser Valley	We would still license the current products, no doubt at a higher cost. If a different set of products is chosen in a future core suite, we will need to evaluate this.
University of Victoria	The funds currently being allocated for the common resource suite would most likely be reallocated. UVic does not cancel direct subscriptions based on the same title being included in an aggregator collection such as EBSCO however due to exclusivity of specific journal titles with one provider (Harvard Business Review) there would be the need to explore options to obtain the same level of access. ILL requests could potentially increase. Communication and exit strategies would be required.
Vancouver Community College	We will be able to provide less content coverage for some subject areas

Vancouver Island University	Probably the biggest implications for us – and this is related to the current form of the common suite, the UFC, which vis a vis this question is impossible to separate out from the generic "common suite" concept - would be the fallout domino effect of possibly losing EBSCO discounts on other EBSCO databases and the benefits of group buying power in negotiations. Having said that, we feel that the complex EBSCO discounting structure has a negative side for us and for the ELN membership. The current UFC structure makes us overly dependent on a single vendor and on a locked-in resource mix, because changing the makeup of the common suite would have echoes far beyond just the ELN common suite to the e-HLbc suite and potentially other EBSCO products and services, both ELN-negotiated (e.g. other databases and EDS) and locally initiated. EBSCO's model of inter-related discounts isn't yet transparent to ELN member libraries (hopefully the UFC review process will illuminate it!) – and this opacity compromises our ability to make properly informed and responsible decisions about collections expenditures and core suite participation. Another implication would be in helping AskAway students from other institutions, particularly the smaller colleges – we would no longer be able to count on at least some commonality of resources to guide students toward. However, we find such variance among other BC library environments (in the AskAway context) that this might not be a significant factor after all.
Yukon College Library	Though we might have more freedom in terms of selecting other resources, the implications would be mostly negative. As a small library, we don't have the financial or human resources to apply in database negotiations. We would probably lose access to content important for our student and faculty.

Q4. Any further comments or questions?

Alexander College	We feel very strongly that a core suite is a necessary and vital component of BC ELN.
BCIT	A common core only works if it has resources we would use and reduces cost. With so many different members it may no longer be achievable.
Capilano University	Is an essential support for our undergraduate programs. ELN's role has been very valuable and we hope that a common resource suite will continue to be offered in the future. Should the current UFC suite not be available and another vendor's resources be chosen, we may need to reevaluate our discovery layer choice.
Columbia Bible College	I value being a part of ELN and for us.......we rely on ELN's expertise in investigating and negotiating the best products and prices. I think ELN does a fabulous job.
Columbia College	What databases are being considered as a suite, in future? THANK YOU
Douglas College	For us, it doesn't really matter what ELN decides.
Emily Carr University of Art + Design	I have concerns over how vendors are marketing their resource products and giving us less choice over what we want. The new CBCA complete products are another good example of how we are being forced to license more that what we need because it is a benefit to the vendor. And now EBSCO has created new Ultimate versions of key products. I don't know how larger schools are able to deal with it but for very small schools with small budgets, it makes affording a wide range of electronic resources more and more difficult. About 1/4 of our electronic resource budget goes to the UFC
Justice Institute of British Columbia	In general, we favour a collection like the UFC and appreciate the great work done by BCELN.
Langara College	We value the BC ELN's services around negotiating and coordinating the purchases of licenses. One of the benefits for students in British Columbia has been the ability to transfer their awareness and familiarity of core research databases throughout their academic career (in British Columbia). Any major financial impact would need a long lead time. As with most institutions, we are now planning at least two years ahead.
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	As a small college, I want to acquire as many e-resources for students as possible.

Okanagan College	Ideally, a common suite should include a wide range of resources, and possibly multiple vendors, in order that all partner libraries feel that they are receiving some benefit from it. Alternatively, ELN might consider trying to negotiate a common suite for a subset of libraries, e.g. colleges, whose interests may be similar enough to support a smaller common suite.
Quest University Canada	As a small library, I've always been a huge proponent of shared resource initiatives, as an opportunity to be a visible, contributing member in the larger academic library community. My main concern is the current pricing model: as a 4-year university, I pay more for these resources than much larger, 2-year colleges and institutes, even though my student numbers are less than 1000. I'd appreciate an opening conversation with the vendor, to discuss pricing options; for example: within each one of the current tiers, there are levels based upon student FTE, or a minimum subscription cost + amount per student FTE, etc. I expect that in the near future, more and more non-traditional libraries will be members of BC ELN, so this issue should be addressed soon.
Royal Roads University	The current academic publishing structure is not sustainable and we're all just trying to shore things up in the meantime hoping for a revolutionary OA shift that isn't coming fast enough. None of our consortia can hold the line on price/content in a way that satisfies all players. This isn't about ELN, this is about an unsustainable system overall.
Selkirk College	Anything that simplifies my work, and provides better pricing is good for Selkirk.
Simon Fraser University	Although the UFC may bring only marginal benefit to our library, we believe in supporting this approach for the collective good. It makes ELN stronger, and provides continuity for transfer students.
University of British Columbia Library	In the current Canadian Academic serial/renewal landscape, product cost increases and variability in the CAD/USD exchange rate have created pressures on Collection Budgets resulting in a wide variety of cost saving measures. From decreases in monograph allocations to Collection cancellation projects, the yearly struggle to meet budgetary pressures has emphasized the importance of having flexibility in renewal decision making.
University of Victoria	Budgetary pressures are going to continue to guide collection decisions. Data to support the value across institutions needs to be provided. Consider looking at licensing software or services for the group rather than additional content or if the majority of the group is in favour of content review if this is still the best group of resources.
Vancouver Community College	It might be an interesting idea to compare two or three common suites from various vendors (if it is a feasible option)

Vancouver Island University	In sum, it seems to us that ELN members may differ enough in their needs that all-in participation in a core suite may not be as viable going forward as it has been in the past. If an approach could be developed that honours the leveling goals of a common suite and the particular and varied needs of member institutions, and is flexible enough to respond to changes and opportunities in the information marketplace, that will be a very valuable service to members.