Holds Management FAQs

I can't afford to buy all these titles!
If there are too many titles in your cart, choose a higher purchasing threshold, and repeat the holds management process to remove titles that fall below your new threshold.

If you order nothing else, consider purchasing the expired titles with holds (cons ratio = "n/a"). These holds will *never* be satisfied unless a copy is purchased.

What should I do about weeded titles?
Some of the titles that you need to buy may be weeded. This means you must unweed some titles before you can buy them (especially expired titles). Please see [Overdrive training materials](#) on weeding and purchasing for more information.

How do I decide how many copies to purchase?
You may wish to order multiple copies of titles with large hold queues. You can determine how many to order by dividing the holds ratio by your purchasing threshold. For example, if the holds ratio is 16 and your threshold is 5, divide 16 by 5, for 3 more copies.

A simpler strategy some members use, especially if you manage holds weekly, is to buy one additional copy each week for as long as the holds ratio falls above your purchasing threshold.

Should I purchase preorders?
If any library has preordered a title, patrons anywhere in the consortium can place holds. On the other hand, you may have a more accurate idea if a purchase is needed closer to the release date. Consider limiting preorders to 1 consortial copy until closer to or after the release date.

Why does a Marketplace holds ratio of "n/a" mean the title is expired with holds?
A holds ratio is calculated as *holds ÷ copies*. If the number of copies is zero, then a zero would be in the denominator, which isn't mathematically possible! That's how we know "n/a" = expired.

Should I include suspended holds?
When running the current holds report, you can include suspended holds by choosing "All" for "Hold Status". However, patrons may be more willing to wait for suspended holds, or may never activate the hold, so focusing only on active holds is recommended.

Why not use Holds Manager or Metered Access Manager?
These two purchasing tools are not recommended. They do not find many of the titles your patrons have on hold and may also suggest purchasing titles already well-supplied, resulting in poorly targeted funds. See Problems with Purchasing Tools for details.