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Evaluating Collections & Saving Money: Old and New Tools

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Evaluating Collections & Saving Money:

Old and New Tools

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Collections Coordinator

Outline

- University-wide faculty journal survey
- Subject fund reallocations
- Collection decisions driven by storage facility
- Evaluating databases in a Googlized world.

2006 Faculty Journal Survey - 1

- Compiled list of all subscriptions not subject to non-cancellation clauses (e.g. Elsevier & Wiley)
- Created master alpha list & discipline lists
- Faculty could look at as many discipline lists and the complete alpha list as desired

2006 Faculty Journal Survey -2

- 2 Questions
 - Check all journals important to your research & teaching.
 - List one journal you would like us to get.
- My reaction- way to simplistic to work
- 550 titles received zero votes
- 525 titles only 1 vote.
- Reviewed zero vote titles in 2006, 1 vote in 2007

Journal Evaluation Criteria - Major

- Use stats (cost/download) – watch for anomalies
- Absolute price & cost/page
- Price history (>10%/year flagged)
- Archival rights (Retain access if cancel?)
- Normalized impact factors (Top 25% percentile)
- UB Faculty publications in journal

Journal Evaluation Criteria - Minor

- Currently received format (print, e-, combo)
- SUNY/NYS/U.S. Holdings
- Coverage in A&I databases
- Full-text in aggregators (minimal weight - embargo periods/risk of content being withdrawn)

Normalized Impact Factors (NIF)

- Raw impact factors (IF) not comparable across disciplines
- Each discipline has a top journal (100) and a bottom journal (0).
- Journal Citation Reports results by discipline downloaded to MS Excel & ranked list converted into percentiles

Normalized Chemistry IF

Journal Title	IF	NIF
Chem Rev	20.87	100%
Surf Sci Rep	17.86	100%
Nat Mater	15.94	100%
Prog Solid State Ch	15.17	99%
Chem Soc Rev	13.75	99%
Annu Rev Phys Chem	13.41	99%
Accounts Chem Res	13.14	99%
Aldrichim Acta	9.92	99%
Nano Lett	9.85	98%

Normalized Geosciences IF

Journal Title	IF	NIF
Oceanogr Mar Biol	9.25	100%
Rev Geophys	7.74	100%
J Appl Crystallogr	5.25	99%
Earth-Sci Rev	4.58	99%
Annu Rev Earth Pl Sc	4.50	99%
Rev Mineral Geochem	4.27	99%
Geostandard Newslett	4.20	98%
Geochim Cosmochim Ac	3.90	98%
Geochem T	3.73	98%

NIF Master List

Journal Title	IF	NIF	Subject
Phytochem Analysis	1.398	56%	Chemistry
Phytochem Analysis	1.398	22%	Biochem
Ocean Eng	0.452	38%	EngrCiv
Ocean Eng	0.452	15%	Geosci
Ocean Eng	0.452	13%	Environ

UB Faculty Publications

- Searched Web of Science by UB address
 - buffalo same (14260 or suny or univ or 14214) not 14222
- Analyzed largest possible set by Source Title
 - SCI – 2000-2006 – 7 years
 - SSCI – 1996-2006 – 11 years
 - A&HCI – 19090-2006 – 17 years
- Saved Analysis results to tab delimited file for export to MS Excel

Top Publishing Titles – UB Authors

Source Title	Count	% of 9014
Abstracts of Papers of The ACS	228	2.5%
Biophysical Journal	130	1.4%
FASEB Journal	126	1.4%
Journal of Dental Research	109	1.2%
JACS	87	1.0%
Journal of Biological Chemistry	80	0.90%
Physical Review B	76	0.80%
Alcoholism-Clinical & Experim. Res	69	0.80%

Bottom Line Result

- Based on selector's analysis of all criteria, final candidate list of zero vote titles prepared and made available to all faculty
- Had to pull only a small number off list based on faculty feedback.
- Cancelled about \$50,000 of unneeded journals and added an equivalent amount of new titles.
- Committed to annual review of all continuing commitments

Punch Line

- Science & Engineering Library added 43 new titles including:
 - J. of General Virology
 - Protein Engineering, Design & Selection
 - Chromatographia
 - Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry
 - Designs, Codes, and Cryptography
 - Stem Cells
 - European Physical J. Part E – Soft Matter

Subject Fund Reallocation

- Allocations based on historical percentages
- Wanted to have a quantitative base to help in justifying our acquisitions budget
- Environmental scan of databases & web for other formulas

Our Formula – By Discipline/Dept.

- Demand – 50% (Institutional Stats Office)
 - Enrollment 15%
 - Grants 15% (Inclusion of grants controversial)
 - Faculty Positions 20%
- Supply – 50%
 - Ave. price x no. of titles = Publishing universe
 - Books 25% - YBP data by discipline.
 - Journals 25% -
 - Ulrich's for # of titles – searched LC classes refined by keywords if needed.
 - ALA Periodicals Price Survey for ave. price

Formula Application

- Applied only to “new”/monograph money, not periodical/serials funds
- Cap of $\pm 10\%$ change for any given fund
- Formula intended to be subject-neutral, i.e. not designed to benefit sciences vs. social science vs. humanities
- Only one fund turned out to be clearly overfunded and one fund clearly underfunded.

Storage-Driven Collections Evaluation - 1

- Journals – pre-1985 except:
 - Math journals – pre-1965
 - Most A&I print indexes remained on-site
 - “Core of the core” journals (Nature, Science, National Geographic) – full run on-site
 - “Journals” primarily reference/data table character (J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, J. Chem. Engr. Data)

Storage-Driven Collections Evaluation - 2

- Books – screened zero-circ books
 - Zero-circ since 1990 marked with plain white label.
 - Title lists prepared from OPAC
 - Selectors review shelves in place – keep, store, withdraw.
 - Solely at selector's discretion.

Zero-circ Books: Keep On-site

- Tend to keep on-site
 - Reference, data-rich, substantial research volumes
 - Well-known “classics”
 - Little available in our collection on the topic
 - English language
 - Particular relevance to UB interests.

Zero-circ Books: Store/Withdraw

- Tend to store or perhaps withdraw
 - Foreign language (unfortunately now a significant use barrier)
 - Excessive amounts of textbooks & introductory material
 - Fragile condition/high value material (safer in storage)

Quick Comments – Databases in a Googlized World

- Librarians value accuracy, precision, quality, careful systematic research.
- Patrons value one-stop shopping, instant gratification, full-text with no access barriers, “good enough” research.
- Patrons are not troubled by ambiguity, fuzziness, bad mixed in with good.

Are databases dead?

- Databases not dead, but many are endangered.
- Niche databases – opposite of one-stop shopping
- General databases IF:
 - No significant added value beyond a few lines of indexing.
 - Without a significant amount of easily accessed full-text.

Are databases dead? - Examples

- PubMed killing for-profit MedLine versions.
- Chemical Abstracts – chemical indexing/registry system high value added.
- PsychInfo (Ebscohost)
 - Clean, powerful interface
 - Host of limit/refine features including Peer Reviewed, Publication Type, Age groups, intended audience, & methodology

Driving our collections decision

- Patrons will increasingly use free web (e.g. Google Scholar or findarticles.com) to find references.
- Patron's great desire is full-text.
- Looking hard at shifting money from A&I databases to full-text journal packages and aggregators with extensive full-text.
- Is nothing sacred? Worldcat vs. Worldcat.org