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Data-Driven Music Score Approval Plans: Working with data and vendors to get what you need

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A photograph of the Syracuse University Libraries building at night. The building is a modern, multi-story structure with a prominent central tower and a large, illuminated glass facade. The sky is a deep blue, and the building's lights are on, creating a warm glow. Trees are visible in the foreground and to the right.

Syracuse University
Libraries

Data-Driven Music Score Approval Plans

Rachel Fox Von Swearingen
Syracuse University
February 2, 2018
Music Library Association

About Syracuse & the Collection

- » School of Music: 300 majors
 - Largest degrees are music industry and music education
- » Other programs in musical theatre & liberal arts
- » No graduate-level musicology!
- » Shelved in main library (LC class A-P)
- » Former Fine Arts service desk closed
- » No prior approval plan

Why a data driven plan?

- » Focus on music of immediate need and higher demand
- » Not as concerned about collection balance
- » Demand driven acquisitions previously rejected as option

Step 1: What do you already know?

- » No chamber music program
 - Baroque Ensemble, 5 or fewer players
 - Contemporary Music Ensemble, 2-10 players
- » Broadway seems very popular
- » Choral music seems dead
- » Voice faculty are enthusiastic about contemporary works

Step 2: Understand vendor plan

- » What does “ethnic” mean? “Representative” coverage?
- » Limit by publisher, or limit by instrumentation, or both?
- » Separate plans for 19th century & before vs. 20th/21st Century?
- » Specialty areas?

Step 3: Establish research questions

- » How popular are different sizes of chamber groups?
- » Do we have ethnic music? Is it used?
- » Should some solo instruments be excluded?
 - Harp? Guitar? Organ?
- » What contemporary composers are
 - Circulating?
 - Being performed?
 - Desired by faculty?
 - Borrowed on ILL?

Step 4: Collect Data

- » Determine what data would [ideally] answer each research question
- » Work closely with your local data providers
- » Ask for more data than what you need
- » Be flexible, and be willing to adjust your research questions

Step 5: Clean and enhance your data

- » Determine what to normalize
 - Publishers?
 - Composer typos?
- » Create specialized fields for your research questions
 - Ethnic music categories (by class)
 - Type of score (subject heading & physical description)
 - Instrumentation and genre categories

Analysis and Challenges

My Data Sets

- » Circulation report
 - 10 years
- » Shelf list with bibliographic data
- » Interlibrary loan
 - 2 years
- » Recital programs
 - 3 years
- » Faculty input
 - Voting on composer list

My Data Sets: the 6th set

- » Contemporary composer list
 - Data combined from all other data sets
 - Composers who died 1940 and after



Image: Kline, D. (2011) San Diego Comic-Con 2011 – Voltron Statue.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/popculturegeek/5977016190> Creative Commons 2.0

Circulation Data

- » Report with Item ID & charge dates
- » Pivot by Item ID & charge year to get totals

Title	Normalized Call No	Historical Charge	Item Id	Charge Date Only	Charge Year
Kvartet no. 1, soch. 4	M 3	1	2,760,689	1/22/2016	2016
Gentleman's guide to	M 1508	0	2,756,666	12/9/2015	2015
Arie, ariette e roman	M 1620	0	2,756,464	2/22/2017	2017
Jazz nocturne : and o	M 22	2	2,754,944	5/31/2015	2015
Jazz nocturne : and o	M 22	2	2,754,944	8/28/2015	2015
Hymn preludes for th	M 143	1	2,754,676	1/14/2015	2015
Anthology of Spanish	M 1619	3	2,753,778	4/16/2016	2016
Anthology of Spanish	M 1619	3	2,753,778	11/2/2015	2015
Anthology of Spanish	M 1619	3	2,753,778	1/28/2016	2016
Anthology of Spanish	M 1619	1	2,753,613	2/5/2017	2017

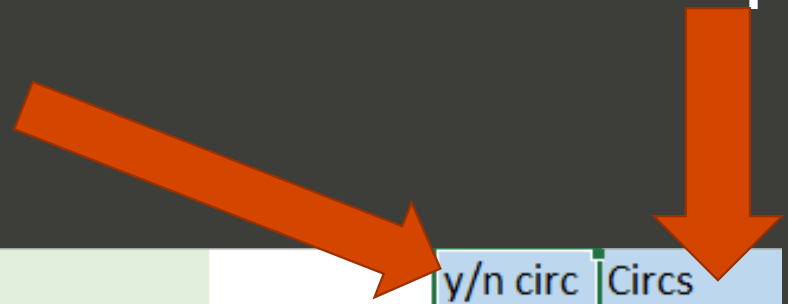
Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Circulation Dataset* [data set].

Item ID	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
990504	12	5	3	3	2			25
1481756	7	6	2		1	2		18
1897198				17				17
234923			13					13
1481755	5	4		1	2			12
214630		1	11					12
1158952						11		11
1619744		3		2	2	2	1	10
1505999		1	9					10

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Circulation Dataset* [data set].

Shelf List: custom circulation fields

- » Bring in circ totals by item ID from circ report
- » Add fields for y/n circ



Title	Historical Charges	y/n circ since 2007	Circs since 2007
Sonata I per violino, viola e violoncello / Johann Georg Alb	0	0	0
Romance for bass tuba : for tuba/euphonium quartet / by	1	1	1
Sonata for three : for flute, violin, and guitar / Thea Musgr	1	1	1
Serenade in D minor, op. 44 : for 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 ba	12	1	7
Chronochromie, pour grand orchestre.	5	1	1
Se??re??nade pour quintette a?? vent solo et orchestre a?	2	0	0
Concerto grosso, pour cor, trompette et trombone et orch	0	0	0

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Circulation Dataset* [data set].

Shelf List: custom genre fields

» Add custom fields

- Genre/instrumentation and score type

Type	Instrumentation 1	instrumentation 2	instrumentation 3	Instrument 4	Subject Headings
piano/vocal score	vocal - secular	dramatic work	musicals	excerpts	Musicals--Excerpts--Vocal scores with pi
piano/vocal score	vocal - secular	dramatic work	musicals	excerpts	Musicals--Excerpts--Vocal scores with pi
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.// Jons
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (High voice) with piano.
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (High voice) with piano.// Lewis, J
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (High voice) with piano.
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.// Tich
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs with piano.// Taggard, Genevieve,
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (High voice) with piano.// Whitma
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Sacred songs (Medium voice) with piano
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.// Bar
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Goodman, Paul, 1911-1972--Musical set
score	vocal - secular	art songs	2 duos with keyboard	voice	Songs (Medium voice) with piano.// San

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Circulation Dataset* [data set].

Shelf List: totals by genre

- » Pivot by genre/instrumentation with circ
- » Formulas to calculate averages and %

Row Labels	ALL TIME CIRCULATION					CIRCULATION SINCE 2011			
	# items owned	unique items circ'd	% circ'd	total circs	average circs per item	unique items circ'd	% circ'd	total circs	average circs per item
American popular	101	93	92%	1285	12.72	58	57%	120	1.19
art songs	2030	1232	61%	5905	2.91	442	22%	992	0.49
2 duos with guitar	85	45	53%	172	2.02	21	25%	39	0.46
2 duos with keyboard	1945	1187	61%	5733	2.95	421	22%	953	0.49
art songs with large ensemble	574	280	49%	763	1.33	108	19%	138	0.24
choruses	2579	965	37%	2221	0.86	197	8%	343	0.13
collections	427	182	43%	529	1.24	48	11%	171	0.40
men's voices	41	13	32%	20	0.49	3	7%	3	0.07
mixed	1525	572	38%	1261	0.83	109	7%	129	0.08
treble voices	73	19	26%	30	0.41	1	1%	1	0.01
unaccompanied	513	179	35%	381	0.74	36	7%	39	0.08
collections	284	94	33%	225	0.79	39	14%	61	0.21

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Circulation Dataset* [data set].

Shelf List: totals by composer

- » Pivot by composer with circ totals
- » Formulas to calculate averages and %
- » Bring totals into contemporary composer list

composer	# of items	total				total			
		total circ's	unique items circ'd	average circs per item	% items circ'd	total circ's since 2007	unique items circ'd since 2007	average circs per item since 2007	% items circ'd since 2007
Bach, Johann Sebastian, 1685-1750,	831	1938	532	2.33	64%	550	352	0.66	42%
Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-17	759	2106	472	2.77	62%	507	244	0.67	32%
Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827,	479	1670	329	3.49	69%	492	206	1.03	43%
Brahms, Johannes, 1833-1897,	383	1200	266	3.13	69%	351	167	0.92	44%
Schubert, Franz, 1797-1828,	279	803	173	2.88	62%	209	104	0.75	37%
Haydn, Joseph, 1732-1809,	612	838	254	1.37	42%	216	103	0.35	17%
Bartok, Bela, 1881-1945,	201	848	147	4.22	73%	236	101	1.17	50%
Handel, George Frideric, 1685-1759,	299	635	165	2.12	55%	168	92	0.56	31%

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Circulation Dataset* [data set].

Lessons: Shelf List & Circulation

- » Use Item ID to match up circ data with the shelf list
 - Barcodes can change over time!
- » Ask about institutional history
 - Change from 2007 to 2011 due to desk closure, and portions of collections in no-circ or in-house only
 - How are browse stats collected now & historically?
- » Don't be afraid to change your mind and then NOT re-do your work

Interlibrary Loan Data

- » Isolate to contemporary composers
- » Pivot by composer
- » Bring totals into contemporary composer list

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Title	Sum of #loans per title
SHORE, HOWARD.	4	11
CASELLA, ALFREDO, 1883-1947.	3	5
MENKEN, ALAN.	2	5
LAMOTHE, LUDOVIC, 1882-1953.	2	3
BRITTEN, BENJAMIN, 1913-1976.	2	2
FRANC'AIX, JEAN, 1912-1997.	2	2
HOIBY, LEE, 1926-2011	2	3
MOERAN, E. J. (ERNEST JOHN), 189	1	1
CHESNOKOV, P. G. 1877-1944. (PA	1	1
PROKOFIEV, SERGEY, 1891-1953.	1	1
CHIN, UNSUK, 1961-	1	1
LARSEN, LIBBY, COMPOSER.	1	1

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Interlibrary Loan Dataset* [data set].

Lessons: Interlibrary Loan Data

- » We have a very active borrower who plays harp



Image: Thomas Sully [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3A1818-Lady-with-Harp-Eliza-Ridgely-Sully.jpg>

Recital Data

- » Compiled from recital program Word files
- » Only collected contemporary composers

A	B	C	D	E
Composer	Dates	Instrument	size	Title
André Bloch	(1873-1960)	clarinet	duo with keyboard	Denneriana
Pierre Boulez	(1925-2016)	mixed	sextet	Dérive I
Andrew Trovato	(b.1987)	strings	duo, other	Dirty Carnival
Josef Szulc	(1875-1956)	voice	duo with keyboard	<i>Dix Melodies</i>
Robert Muczynski	(1929-2010)	woodwinds	duo, other	Duos for Flutes
Francis Poulenc	(1899-1963)	horn	duo with keyboard	Élégie for Horn and Piano
Peter Schickele	(b. 1935)	clarinet	duo with keyboard	Elegies for Clarinet and Piano
Leonard Bernstein	(1918-1990)	horn	solo	Elegy for Mippy 1
Richard Hundley	(b. 1931)	voice	duo with keyboard	Epitaph on a Wife
Christopher Deane	(b. 1957)	percussion	solo	Etude for a Quiet Hall

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Recital Dataset* [data set].

Faculty Data

- » Suggested composer list from vendor
- » Loaded in Google Drive for voting
- » Bring totals into contemporary composer

data set

Your name	here --->	KR	EJ	JB	JS	sum
Abels, Michael, 1962-	1962-					0
Abrahamsen, Hans, 1952-	1952-					0
Adamo, Mark		1				1
Adams, John Luther,	1953-		1			1
Adams, John,	1947-	1	1	1		3
Adams, Leslie, 1932-	1932-	0.5		0.5		1
Adler, Samuel,	1928-	0.5				0.5

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Faculty Dataset* [data set].

Contemporary Composer List

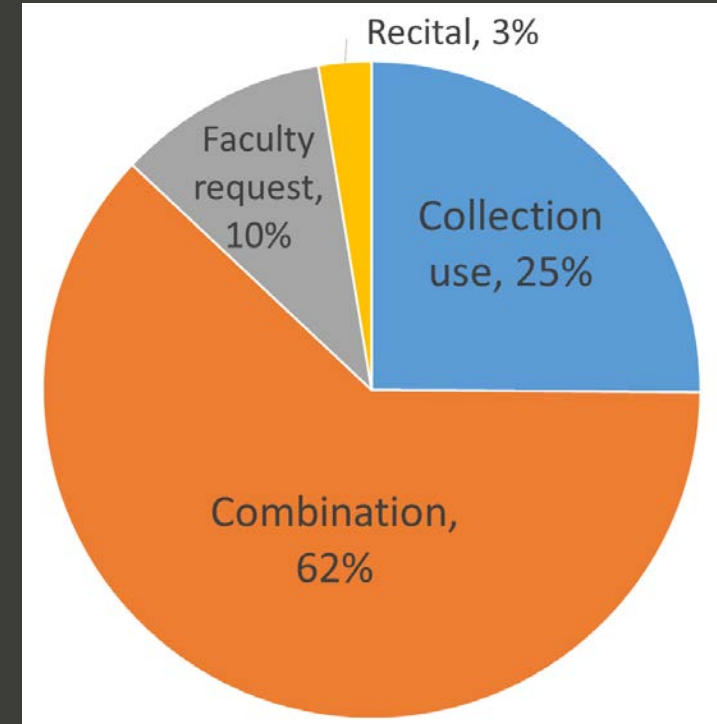
- » Contemporary = died in 1940 or after
- » ILL Data less than 100 composers
- » Vendor data (faculty voting) 350 composers
- » Recital data 250 composers
- » Shelf list/circ data 2500 composers
 - Contemporary composers, plus those without dates
 - Winnowed down

Scoring Goals

- » Automatically include any composer who:
 - Received two or more faculty votes
 - Received four or more recital performances
 - Had five or more unique titles circulate
- » Don't include a composer solely on:
 - ILL loans
 - Circulation of four or fewer titles

Reason for Including a Composer

Reason	# of composers
» Collection use	58, 25%
» Faculty request	24, 10%
» Recital	6, 3%
» Combination	143, 62%
Total	231



Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) *Contemporary Composer Dataset* [data set].

Faculty choices vs. other data

» Voice faculty

- voted for 81 composers
- All 81 were ultimately chosen
- Only 13 had zero points from other data sources

» Instrumental faculty

- voted for 48 composers
- 46 were ultimately chosen
- Only 11 had zero points from other data sources

Lessons: Contemporary Composers

- » Composers without dates in some data sets may have dates in other data sets
- » Tried ranking voice and instrumental separately; no conclusive answer
- » Took the most work, but was the most beneficial

Future Assessment

- » Monitor publishers
 - Visual inspection for public domain editions
 - Pull data after 2-3 years to consider reducing to smaller publisher list for plan that covers 19th century & before
- » Monitor large ensemble music & choral music
 - Consider removing from 19th century & before plan
- » Monitor contemporary composers
 - Promote new title lists with faculty
 - Run circulation data for those items after 2-3 years
 - Consider demoting some composers to “representative coverage” or “vocal music only”

Key Excel Features Used

- » Lookup tables
 - Facilitates matching data based on one shared field
- » Text to columns
 - Splits up a column of data (like composers and dates)
- » Filter by “contains”
 - Identifies similar cells within a column, like subject keywords within a subject string or variations in publisher names
- » Pivot tables
 - Calculates totals of data occurrences

Questions later?

- » Rachel Fox Von Swearingen
- » rsfoxvon@syr.edu

Fox Von Swearingen, R. (2018) Music Circulation Dataset [data set].