Conducting a Journal Assessment Project Using Microsoft Access to Obtain Faculty Input and Promote the Creation of a Cost-Effective Journal Collection

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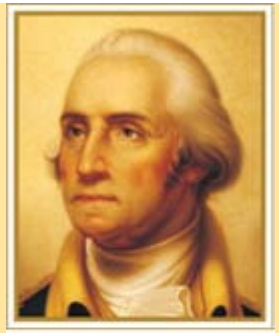

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Objectives

- Create local database of journal information for collection development
- Combine faculty input with subject and statistical data
- Analyze data to create cost-effective journal collection that supports the mission of the George Washington University Medical Center's educational, research and clinical activities and programs

Technology

- Microsoft Access used to collect, organize, query and evaluate data
- Database integrates MeSH, department and title-specific information
- Microsoft Excel used to format surveys and transfer data into MS Access

Methodology

- Planning
  - Formed project team and assigned roles
  - Database created coupling journal titles with MeSH, departments and subscription data
- Data gathering
  - Team members assigned to assemble different pieces of data for 990 journal titles
  - Data points: 2009 cost information, electronic usage statistics, cost per use, Impact and Eigen factors, in-house publication statistics
  - Data imported into MS Access Database
- Surveys
  - Customized surveys generated by department
  - Surveys piloted with 6 departments who also received visit by management team describing project; survey changes resulted from pilot feedback
  - Surveys distributed to full-time faculty with 2 weeks turnaround
  - Surveys were resent to departments with less than 15% response rate.
  - All survey responses were entered into Access database and compiled. Reports were generated for analysis

Results

- 518 surveys were sent out with a return rate of 184 (36%)
- Department –level data analysis
  - List of titles designated as most valuable by the department
  - Faculty's free-text comments and recommendations
- Collection-level data analysis
  - List of titles recommended for retention in the collection
  - List of titles recommended for cancellation in the collection
  - Additional titles recommended for cancellation in situations of budget constraint
- Resulting aggregate reports were then used for renewal decisions

Conclusions

- Microsoft Access facilitated collection of title-specific information internally and could also be used to create survey soliciting faculty input
- While database facilitated project completion, the project remained time-intensive and required the collaboration of multiple committee members
- Ongoing record of journal data creates valuable collection development aid
- Faculty became more knowledgeable about journal collection