Methodology

- Once project team was formed and roles assigned, the initial database was created by coupling journal title with subjects, departments and subscription information.
- Data was gathered by project team members for 990 core subscription titles (2009 cost information, cost per use, electronic usage statistics, Impact and Eigen factors, in-house publication statistics).
- All data was imported into MS Access database and customized surveys generated by department.
- Trial run was conducted with 6 departments by management team visits to All data was imported into MS Access database and customized surveys generated for analysis.
- Resulting aggregate reports were then used for renewal decisions.

Results

- 518 surveys were sent out with a return rate of 184 (36%)
- Review of analyses of aggregate responses allowed for further compilation of:
  - Listing of titles designated as most valuable by the department
  - Full listing of titles recommended for retention in the collection
  - The recording of evaluative data for future use makes it an invaluable aid to ongoing collection efforts
- The faculty became more knowledgeable about the many factors contributing to the journal collection.

Conclusion

- Microsoft Access facilitated collection of title-specific information internally and could also be used for creation of questionnaire to elicit faculty input.
- Although use of the database made accomplishment of each stage easier, the project was still time-intensive and required the collaboration of multiple committee members at different times.
- Full listing of titles recommended for cancellation in the collection.
- Additional titles recommended for cancellation in situations of budget constraint.
- Faculty’s free-text comments and recommendations.
- Resulting aggregate reports were then used for renewal decisions.

Objectives

- To develop an in-house database of title-level journal information that supports collection development.
- To combine faculty input with various subject and statistical data within the database to maximize the knowledge base for subscription renewal.
- To analyze database data to further develop a 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 was chosen to collect, organize, query and evaluate data.
- The database was designed to combine titles with MeSH, department and title-specific information.
- Microsoft Excel was used to transfer data into MS Access and format survey layout.
- To analyze database data to further develop a cost-effective journal collection that supports the mission of The George Washington University Medical Center’s educational, research and clinical activities and programs.

Sample Survey

Creating and Using an Access Database To Enhance Subject Analysis and Obtain Faculty Input About the Journals Collection
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