Re-building Our Collection: A Data & Department-driven Approach to Monograph Assessment

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Objective
To update the library’s print monograph collection by performing a comprehensive collections analysis by subjects corresponding to the 47 departments served by the library

Monograph Collection Data
• Generated ILS output by data points on 29 Call Number Ranges/Subject areas. Example: Psychology B785-BT732.5 Anatomy QM11-QM695 Surgery RD1-RD798
• Exported output to MS Excel

Method

Monograph Collection Data
Excel Based on Call Number Ranges
• Assigned LC Subclass headings
• Assigned department(s)
• Performed calculations & formatted output reports

Access
• Imported monograph spreadsheet into a relational table
• Queried and applied filters to extracted department data
• Exported report to Excel

Rebuilding
• Project team reviewed & analyzed reports
• Identified areas requiring new titles
• Used Doody’s lists to identify new titles to purchase
• Identified heavily used titles and key titles to be placed on standing order
• Identified department needs & future trends

Departments
• Identified all academic departments served by library
• Reviewed Doody’s Core Titles by specialty/departmental area and exported to MS Excel

Results
• The library identified and purchased 1,229 new titles and 122 Board Review titles
• Project resulted in improved knowledge of collection
• Augmented newer subject areas

Process Data

Department Reports
• Generated statistics for 47 departments
• Print and electronic holdings comparison
• Doody’s Core List comparison
• High-checkout titles by dept
• Aggregate summary report

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• The library refreshed heavily used areas to ensure adequate overlap between the print and electronic monograph collections
• Each departmental liaison librarian is now involved in an approval system for monograph acquisitions
• Improved support to academic departments

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