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

George Paul, MLS, Yvonne Lee, MS, JoLinda Thompson, MLS, AHIP, Laura Abate, MLS, Julie Silverman, MLS, MBA, Anne Linton, MS, AHIP
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, George Washington University

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.

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

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

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

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

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

- 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

Objective
Excel Based on Call Number Ranges
- Assigned LC Subclass headings
- Assigned department (up to 2 per title)
- Exported data into MS Access
- Performed calculations & formatted output reports

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

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

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

- 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

Objective
Excel Based on Call Number Ranges
- Assigned LC Subclass headings
- Assigned department (up to 2 per title)
- Exported data into MS Access
- Performed calculations & formatted output reports

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

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

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

- 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

Objective
Excel Based on Call Number Ranges
- Assigned LC Subclass headings
- Assigned department (up to 2 per title)
- Exported data into MS Access
- Performed calculations & formatted output reports

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

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

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

- 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