Abstract

Based on a practical project at McGill University Library, this poster presents the results of an analysis of the print and electronic collections in the physical sciences and engineering (PSE). Several data sources were brought together to analyze both the collection and its major user base.

The primary source of collection information used was WorldShare Collection Evaluation. Using this tool, the age, subject content, and format of the holdings in WorldCat Local can be analyzed, allowing for the identification of unique holdings, gaps and duplicate works, and the comparison of the collection against that of peer institutions.

To improve allocations of collection funds by discipline, the WorldShare Collection Evaluation and other data sources were compared to enrollment statistics, number of courses, and faculty members in each department in PSE served by McGill University. Schulich Library of Science and Engineering.

Ultimately, the statistical analysis will assist in identifying collection strengths and weaknesses, allowing librarians collaboratively overseeing the development of the PSE collection to make strategic planning choices.

This poster also explores the functionality and utility of WorldShare Collection Evaluation and how it may be used by library staff in the purposes such as comparison with peers, looking at resources supporting a new program, etc.

Background

Platform that is designed by OCLC to help librarians with [1–4]

• Identifying collection strengths and weaknesses.
• Identifying low use (circulation) titles for possible deselection.
• Identifying unique titles to ensure preservation through companion with peer institutions.
• Identifying titles held by many institutions for possible deselection.

WorldShare Issues

• Tends to give false results for "unique" titles — they aren't actually unique.
• Collection is rigid — trouble with interdisciplinary works.
• Issues with comparing to institutions where the language of cataloging is not English.
• "Unknown" classification (e-books especially).
• E-book circulation data is not in the system.

Methods

• Collection and circulation statistics generated using WorldShare Collection Evaluation.
• Department by-department breakdown of subjects determined by mapping WorldShare Collections call number ranges to those found in McGill’s PSE collection development plans.
• Statistics from McGill enrolment and department websites.

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Bibliography