Give e-resources a chance: a collaborative approach to collection assessment

Amanda Binder, Social Sciences Librarian
Liz Siler, Non-Serial Electronic Resources Librarian
Southeastern Library Assessment Conference
November 16, 2015
Why collaborate?
e-resource renewals

1. Subscription renewals notices
2. E-mail to liaisons for feedback
3. Review of usage data
The Project

1. Library survey of POLS faculty
2. Usage statistics of POLS resources
3. Data analysis
4. Presentation of findings to POLS faculty
5. Promotion of underutilized resources that are both unfamiliar and of interest to faculty
SPICES ANALOGY
Explanation for methodology

• 3-year check-up
• Understand faculty priorities for resources
• Get ahead of resource renewals
• Prevent cancellations of valuable resources
• Promote less familiar resources
• Increase use of valuable resources by classes and faculty
I have prepared a short 5-6 question survey that will gather information about the following:

- Resources of most value for your professional research
- Resources of most value for POLS student research
- Awareness of and value of POLS-related electronic library resources
- Comments and suggestions regarding library collections

Please take 10 minutes to complete this brief survey: http://uncc.surveyshare.com/s/AYAYDMC. Your participation in the survey will help the library better understand what resources you and your students rely on for research (regardless of whether or not they are accessed/accessible through the library), which library resources we could do a better job of promoting, and any concerns/suggestions you might have regarding library collection development as it relates to your research and teaching.
List the five most valuable resources for your research. Examples of resources might include specific journals, databases, search engines, websites, data sources, or other materials. Please list resources regardless of whether or not they are accessed through Atkins Library subscriptions.
Resources of Value to Faculty (by Type)
Resources of Value to Students (by Type)
# Library Survey of POLS Faculty

Rate the importance of the library resources listed below for your research and/or teaching:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Essential Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Useful but not essential</th>
<th>Not important for my work</th>
<th>Not familiar with this resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Search Premier/Complete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIAO, Columbia International Affairs Online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress and the Nation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ Researcher Online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ Weekly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ's Politics in America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings

21 of 30 resources rated as essential

- 70% Essential
- 83% Important
- 67% Somewhat Important
- 83% Useful but not essential
- 87% Not important for work
- 93% Unfamiliar with resource
Were there any resources in this list that you did not know were available through the library?

- Yes: 10 responses
- No: 3 responses
Knowing that we have these resources, are there any that you would like to learn more about?

- Yes: 9 responses
- No: 4 responses
Usage Statistics
What questions can usage data answer?

- What eResources are and aren’t getting used?
- How are our eResources being used?
- When they are most often being accessed?
COUNTER 4 Reports

• Journal Reports 1 (JR1)
• Database Report 1 (DR1)
• Book Report 2 (BR2)
Non-COUNTER Usage Reports

• Reasons:
  – Information or Platform does not fit with COUNTER measures
  – Resource is not a typical library resource
  – Provide a bigger picture of the usage, outside of COUNTER

• Types:
  – Queries or Searches
  – Page Views or Record Views
  – Transactions (Westlaw)
Analyzing Usage

• For a complete look, analyze 3 years of statistics
• Normalize data
• Cost per use
Non-vendor data

- Google Analytics
- LibGuides or other web pages
- Link Resolver and Discovery Services
- ILL Stats
Limitations of Usage Stats

- Constantly changing resources and technology
- eBooks still need some work
- Limited picture of what users are actually doing
Message to faculty

• Increase awareness of the landscape of collection development and library budget
• Transparency
• Create realistic expectations
• Do not make promises you cannot keep
• Address fears/questions/concerns/confusion
• Present opportunities for learning
• Leave on a positive note
How can we ensure that we keep a particular resource?

1. Use it.
2. Usage stats not representing value?
3. Tell me about your research.
Political Communication

Cost per article: $40
Cost per issue: $225
Cost per year (subscription): $713

ILL can get free access to up to 5 articles per journal per year
Political Communication

ILL can get free access to up to 5 articles per journal per year

ILL Stats (2012-2014)
- 2014 - 1
- 2013 - 2
- **2012 – 15 ($40 \times 10 = $400)**
- 2008 - 2
- 2007 - 4
- 2005 – 1

Annual subscription: $713
Cost per use at 15 (with 5 included in ILL) = $71
Cost per use at 25 (with 5 included in ILL) = $35
Applying data to collection development decisions

1. ICPSR
2. Polling the Nation
3. WestLaw
Customize assessment plan

HISTORY PRIMARY SOURCE DATABASES

- Collection of usage data (COUNTER, LibGuides)

- Promotion of underutilized resources through integration in online learning modules, tutorials, and library instruction activities
Review: assessing e-resources at your library

• Faculty input
• Collection of usage data
• Analysis and presentation of data
• Roadmap for future promotion and collection
Questions?

Amanda Binder, Social Sciences Librarian

Liz Siler, Non-Serial Electronic Resources Librarian
Questions to Consider:

• What are your goals for collection assessment?
• How do you evaluate e-resources at your library?
• Do you know who to contact at your library for usage data?
• When is a good time of year to evaluate e-resources?
• What is your process for cancellation/renewal?
• Do you have a collections committee?
Further Reading:


Image Credits

Slide 16: http://media.tab.co.uk/blogs.dir/7/files/2013/05/4.jpg