

NASIG 2001 - A Serials Odyssey

Poster Sessions

Broad versus Specific in Descriptors for E-Journals and Other Web Resources at the Arizona Health Sciences Library

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Arizona Health Sciences Library

The AHS Library Web site (<http://www.ahsl.arizona.edu>) serves as a gateway to more than 1400 full-text electronic journals, databases, e-books, and locally compiled Web resource guides. Keyword searching of these resources based on words in the title is largely ineffective without descriptive annotations and a system of subject headings. We therefore developed a controlled vocabulary of subject headings based on the broad MeSH terms used in the "List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus" (LJI). These terms can be used to conduct broad subject searches of all electronic resources entered into our SQL/Cold Fusion database. This approach gives Web site users more comprehensive retrieval. Problems remain, however, such as if users need to employ precise search concepts (e.g., Conjunctivitis, rather than Ophthalmology). We have done some mapping of terms in see-reference style, but it is impractical, given the workload required, to map all possible specific/broad term combinations. Another solution is the use of the Library's online catalog as the searching tool of choice where specificity is desired. This works well for electronic journals with print counterparts in the catalog because subject analysis has historically aimed for the specific rather than the general. Unfortunately it imposes the need to search two systems (Web site and catalog) that offer different categories of information as well as different resources. This poster highlights these problems and illustrates evolving solutions.

Ten Years of Serials Collection Analysis: The PAD System

Nancy Deyoe

Wichita State University Libraries

Wichita State University Libraries developed and implemented a local tool designed to collect journal usage data and facilitate SISAC barcoding of periodical issues in 1991. By 1994, this tool had been enhanced to include additional serials data and had become a relational database (the Periodicals Analysis Database, or PAD). Data compiled from the PAD has become an important factor in decision-making at the Wichita State University Libraries through seven journal review processes in the past decade. This poster session will offer a pragmatic appraisal of the performance of the PAD system over time and give practical advice on how a relational database can be effectively used during serial review projects. The poster session will also discuss proposed future enhancements to the PAD that will make this an even

more effective collection management tool for e-journals and other electronic serials. The NASIG community first saw an earlier version of PAD at the 1996 Annual Conference. This session will discuss the performance of the improved PAD over time.

Monitoring/Evaluating Staff Performance and Workload

Carol Ficken

University of Akron

This session will demonstrate the process of monitoring staff performance goals and departmental workload, documentation of staff achievements on an ongoing basis, and provision of feedback to staff and supervisors at Bierce Library, University of Akron.

Using individualized basic priority lists, the status of responsibilities of each staff person is reviewed monthly identifying:

- Backlog
- Those who have time for projects or extra work
- Organization or priority issues
- Goal achievements

By monitoring the workload and reviewing the status of responsibilities regularly, tasks can be redistributed, and staff can receive feedback on work. This process helps to avoid overload for department members, insures that assigned work is completed, and gives supervisor and staff members monthly performance feedback.

From Print to Electronic: Measuring the Operational and Economic Implications of an Electronic Journal Collection

Carol Montgomery

Drexel University

As electronic journals become an increasingly important part of collections, it is critical to develop assessment methods and to document the impact from the shift to electronic resources. This paper reports methodology and initial results of an Institute for Library and Information Studies (ILIS) funded research project studying the operational and economic impact from an academic library's migration to an all-electronic journal collection. Drexel University's Hagerty Library has moved aggressively to an electronic journal model, retaining a small and decreasing group of print journals. For 2001 renewals, the library subscribes to approximately 6,000 electronic subscriptions and 300 print journals.

Drexel Library's entire print and electronic journal collections and associated staff are the test bed to study three key research questions:

1. What is the impact on library staffing needs?

2. How have library costs been reduced, increased and/or re-allocated?
3. What other library resources have been affected?

We used both quantitative and qualitative methods to:

1. Compute the unit costs for activities related to print journals by measuring the staff time, subscriptions costs and other costs related to each activity.
2. Similarly determine the per-journal cost of acquiring and maintaining print and electronic subscriptions.
3. Study all impacted library services, including changes in reference service, document delivery, and instructional programs.

JWizard: A Single Interface to the World of Journal Literature

Tim Bucknall

University of North Carolina, Greensboro

One of the persistent problems in finding journal literature is that there are so many places to look. UNCG has simplified the process by developing a software solution (JWizard) that allows users to see, on a single screen, all of their possible options for obtaining a given journal title. Using JWizard, a user may enter a journal title and, with one click, determine if the Library holds the title in print (and if so, the page provides links directly to the record in the catalog), if any of six other libraries in the area hold the print title (and if so, it provides links directly to the records of only the catalogs which have the title), and if there is full text online access from aggregators, direct subscriptions, free Web sites, or any other source (and if so, direct links are provided). The same results screen also allows for either mediated interlibrary loan or unmediated document delivery of any journal article. This “one stop shopping” solution for accessing the world of journal literature was developed in-house at UNCG’s Jackson Library. The poster session will demonstrate JWizard’s capabilities and cover some of the issues relating to the development of a large serials database that merges data from dozens of different sources.

Electronic Resources Shared Cataloging Project—Gain or Loss? (From a Participant Perspective)

Lai-Ying Hsiung and Larry Millsap

University of California, Santa Cruz

This session is for libraries that are contemplating joining or setting up a shared cataloging project. It will describe how the University of California, Santa Cruz Library has recently maximized the utilization of the electronic resource bibliographic records coming from the California Digital Library Shared Cataloging Project by loading them directly into the local library catalog. The successful loading project brings to light various issues of interest to libraries who are concerned about how access to electronic resources should be managed in a consortium environment, e.g., pros and cons of the single record approach; the display of holding summary in the local WEB OPAC and the consortium WEB OPAC; the handling of local data; the design of the integrated library system in their accommodation of local data

including the protection of local URLs; the adaptation of the library in its application of cataloging standards within a shared cataloging environment; the role of the integrated library system's functionalities in the quality control of data loading and data integrity; and holdings reporting to the Consortium.

Griffith University Library Electronic Resources Database (ERD)

Nathalie Schulz

Griffith University Library, Nathan, Australia

The Electronic Resources Database (ERD) is the Griffith University Library's solution to the problems of managing e-journals. The innovative use of enhanced catalog records allow e-journal data to be recorded and updated in the catalog and then imported into the database and linked with publisher information. The ERD has been designed in MS Access (with data stored in Oracle) and currently contains approx. 8200 records for full-text e-journals. E-journal data are sourced either from the library catalog, or Excel files (for new products awaiting cataloging).

To Fly Like the Wind Over Land or Sea: Desktop Article Delivery

Linda Frederiksen

Washington State University

In February 2001, the Washington State University Vancouver Library implemented a new article delivery service. Using a combination of fee and free software and a campus Web server, journal articles are electronically delivered to the desktops of both on and off campus faculty members. Rather than full-text article delivery through a subscription database, the articles come instead from serials repositories around the country and are delivered as scanned page images. Using Prospero software, articles are converted from TIFF to PDF files and are transmitted to a Web server, where requestors may retrieve them at their convenience. Involving a collaborative effort between the library's access services department and the information technology staff, the new service was an immediate success. The results of this initial study indicate that desktop document delivery has implications for all library users, whether on-campus or in a distance education environment. This poster session will describe how a traditional library service of delivering information is being transformed through the use of technology.

Uncovering Hidden Assets: Journey on the Access Express

Virginia Taffurelli

Science, Industry, and Business Library, New York, NY

In the quest to provide access to the myriad resources available, the Science, Industry, and Business Library of The New York Public Library has embarked on a journey aboard the Access Express. With limited human resources, SIBL needed to find alternate solutions to providing access to electronic journals and non-print government documents. Providing access to electronic journals has become a

challenge for all serials librarians. With the proliferation of aggregated databases, keeping track of which titles are available in databases, as well as the coverage dates, can be a monumental task, particularly since some of these databases add and drop titles seemingly at whim. In addition to electronic resources, SIBL maintains a sizable collection of government documents on microfiche and in electronic formats. Previously, these resources were uncataloged. There are now vendor-supplied records in our online catalog.

Growing an Electronic Journals Collection: Experience of One Library

Mori Lou Higa-Moore and Timothy C. Judkins

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Library

A description of the rapid growth of electronic access to journals is given for the Library of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Growth of the collection from the first order for online access to a single journal, the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, to the current collection of more than 3,500 online titles is demonstrated. The effect of rapid growth in electronic access on staff, the Web pages of the Library, and the traditional functions of serials acquisitions and budgeting is described. The value of the electronic journal collection is presented using comments collected in the client contact database and from a series of focus groups recently completed involving faculty, staff, and student users of the Library.

Hiring Odyssey: Qualifications for a Serials Librarian in an Electronic Age

Hanna Kwasik

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Library

Technology has made a job of all librarians much more complex. The use of electronic journals has become a serious challenge for organizing and managing information. In particular: What are the new expectations for a serials librarian? The purpose of the study is to analyze the most frequently required and preferred qualifications and knowledge demands for a serials librarian. One hundred randomly selected job announcements in academic institutions from the years 1999-2001 will be examined and compared. A special emphasis will be placed on the need for familiarity with many aspects of electronic resources and knowledge of emerging metadata standards. The results will be presented in the form of statistical histograms. Based on the above analysis, a sample of an average, typical job posting for a serials librarian will be created.

Exploring Quadrant 008: A Holdings Odyssey

Char Simser, Mary Bailey, and Julie Goings-Rashid

Kansas State University

Kansas State University Libraries discovered the MARC Format for Holdings Data for serials in late 1995 after migrating from NOTIS to Endeavor Voyager. Limited implementation, which included use of fixed field data, began in late 1997 with a few gift materials; coding was expanded to all new serial titles by late 1998. The value of data in the fixed field led staff to re-examine processes for all formats handled at KSU Libraries more than a year later. As with the implementation of any new process, the use of MARC Format for Holdings Data in the serials environment, indeed for all resources—print and non-print, monograph and serial—has changed our procedures and processes. Moreover, it led to a project currently underway to code all serials held by the Libraries, estimated to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 60,000 holdings records, a report 2000+ pages long. Why?

This poster session will revolve around the uses of coded information in the holdings fixed field. Specific topics to be explored:

- What is the holdings 008 field?
- What benefits are there from using coded data in the MARC fixed field?
- Accurate counts of all types of resources
- Reports of purchases, gifts, or exchanges
- Reports of currently received periodicals
- Streamlining workflows
- What MUST be coded in order to generate useful reports for Technical Services, for Collection Management, or for accreditation reports?
- What impact does implementation have on acquisitions and cataloging processes?
- Using MS Access to create reports—sample reports and scripts will be shown.
- Documentation of our processes.

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