What is Unique About Unique?

An Assessment to Uncover and Value Distinct Collections Within the Main Library Collection

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OSU Libraries & Press

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Preview

• Introductions
• Unique, distinct, and emergent collections
• Perspectives on collections
• Value and valuing collections
• Flexible indicators to consider collections
• Collection case studies
• Conclusion – Discussion
Context and Introductions:

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Assessment Librarian

Andrea Wirth  
Collection Development & Science Librarian

Laurel Kristick  
Collection Assessment & Science Librarian

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What are we trying to do...?

1. Identify unique collections within the main collection.

2. Articulate the value of unique collections.
Why unique collections?

Libraries (among other things) will need to “focus on curating unique items.”

*From Stacks to the Web: The Transformation of Academic Library Collecting*

Lewis 2013

"Academic libraries have an opportunity to make their unique collections available to the world in unprecedented ways.”

*ACRL Top Ten Assumptions for the Future of Academic Libraries. ACRL Research Committee 2007*

"Local collections of non-unique, conventionally published material will decline in importance, suddenly and quickly, and within the next five years; local collections of rare and unique materials will increase in importance, according to the same timetable.”

*Future-Proofing the Library: Strategies for Acquisitions, Cataloging, and Collection Development*

Anderson 2008

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Unique, Distinct, or Meaningful

“collecting with purpose”

What’s Next for Collection Management and Managers? Assessing the Value of Collection Services
Chadwell (2012)
Emergence is the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergence
Weak links and undoing...

"Ignorance of already-available resources... means that expert human librarians are providing a weak link between existing collection and future collection development."

Collection Evaluation: A Foundation for Collection Development
Agee 2005

"Deselection is a matter of undoing, not just doing."

Collection Management in the Library Quarterly 1931-2005
Osburn 2006
We want to intelligently view collections so we don’t unintentionally disassemble them.
What is a collection?

Indicators for Collection Evaluation: A New Dimensional Framework. Borin & Yi 2005

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What we mean by collection...

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*Indicators for Collection Evaluation: A New Dimensional Framework.*

Borin & Yi 2005
Perspective: Item level

http://www.flickr.com/photos/osuvalleylibrary/457109829/

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Perspective: Collection Level

http://www.flickr.com/photos/osuvalleylibrary/490460773/
Perspective: User-Level

http://sites.ewu.edu/Eastern247/files/2011/04/LibraryReading_2471.jpg

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Perspective: Consortial Level

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Grounded Theory - Our Iterative Methodology

What is Value?

Library Literature

Non-Library Literature

Interviews

Collection Development Policies

Institutional Data

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Archival Value for Unique Collections?

1. Primary Value (ongoing admin, legal, fiscal)

2. Secondary (Historical)
How do we value collections?

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Value to Whom?

University

Library

Collections

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• # of faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Active research area</td>
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<tr>
<td>• New Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Mission alignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• # of students</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Funding (Grants)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within Library</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Librarian insight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ILL/Circulation Stats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funding (endowments / grants)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Complementary Resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within Collections</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Comparison of Holdings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• # of items in call ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lists / Narrowing / Rising</td>
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**Indicators of Distinct/Valued Collections**

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"...the collection occupies the intersection of library and community. But in practice, collection management has not yet incorporated an effective means for the commensurate and substantive integration of the evolving purposes of the community into its plans and decisions. This situation may even constitute divergence of theory and practice. For whatever reason, methodologies and mechanisms circumscribed by the physical library generally have exerted greater influence on library operations than have the ideas that stimulate the community.”

Collection Management in the Library Quarterly 1931-2005
Osburn 2006
Flexible Indicators and Guidelines

"We believe that providing a framework of dimensional indicators that can be mixed, matched, adopted, and adapted instead of providing a process or model to follow is an answer to the diverse multi-faceted and evolving environment found in today's libraries."

Indicators for Collection Evaluation: A New Dimensional Framework.
Borin & Yi 2005
Examples of Flexible Indicators

- Consortial Lending data (Summit)
- ILL Lending data
- Web of Science Institutional Research
- Institutional Repository data
- Local Catalog data
- Library Endowments
- Unique Digitized Collections

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### Within University
- # of faculty
- Active research area
- Mission alignment
- # of students
- Funding (Grants)

### Within Library
- Librarian insight
- Demand (ILL/Circulation Stats)
- Funding (endowments / grants)
- Complementary Resources

### Within Collections
- Strength
- Comparison of Holdings
- Size
- # of items in call ranges
- Subject Lists / Narrowing / Rising

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Profile: Forestry

Forestry Articles (Peers & Alliance)

% of institutional research

# of articles published in Web of Science

Mission Alignment

Active Research Area

Comparison of Holdings

Profile: Forestry

Forestry Collection

Number of Titles

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400


Age of Collection

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VALUE

Use

Symbolic (Prestige)

Strength
Profile: Zoology

Zoology Articles

% of institutional research

# of articles in Web of Science

INDICATORS
Demand (ILL)
Active Research Area
Potential Growth

Zoology Collection

Value
Environmental Factors
Strength
Potential

Zoology Collection

Number of Titles

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500

Age of Collection

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“The ladies” by mazaletel, flickr
George H. Arscott and Elizabeth J. Arscott hereby establish The Arscott Poultry Library Endowment through the Oregon State University Foundation. The fund has been established with current cash contributions and earlier contributions, which were deposited to the Arscott Poultry Science Fund.

Profile: Poultry Science

100 Years of Poultry Science
Gita Cherian, James H.

1868 Establishment of Oregon State University
1907 Establishment of the Department of Poultry Husbandry
1933 Department of Animal, Dairy Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine
1962 Department of Poultry Science
1991 Merged with Department of Animal Sciences

James Dryden, First Dept. Head
Inducted to National Agriculture Hall of Fame, 1991

Drs. Arscott and Bernier, 1958


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Profile: Poultry Science

At least 12% (66) of poultry science collection loaned

# books loaned 2005-2012, by decade of publication

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Profile: Water Resources

About the Collection

The Middle East Water Collection provides access to over 10,000 items on political, socio-economic, demographic, and legal issues of water in the Middle East. Materials include data, books, journal and newspaper articles, and documents published in the Middle East, Europe, and North America, originating from a variety of publishers and sources.

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“Conscious Collection Development”

"Methods of gathering and using data are useful only in the context of understanding the essence of a library properly conceptualized.”

An Epistemological Foundation for Library and Information Science
Budd 1995 (in Osburn 2006)
We want to intelligently view collections so we don’t unintentionally disassemble them.
Practical Takeaways

- Use data you have already gathered (Laurel)
- Examining ILL more closely (Andrea)
- Looking at local “research activity” in databases (Rick)
- Aligning collections to enhance university mission (Rick)
Literature cited…

• ACRL Top Ten Assumptions for the future of Academic Libraries: [http://crln.acrl.org/content/68/4/240.full.pdf](http://crln.acrl.org/content/68/4/240.full.pdf)

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Discussion…

“I’m a big fan of books, so don’t let them go away until I’m dead, at least.”

-Kevin Burke
Timberline Fiddler, 2013