From the CSU Files: Centralizing Collection Management at a Large Research Library

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About the University of Alberta
About the University of Alberta Libraries

- Member library of ARL and CARL
- 6 subject libraries on main campus, 2 interdisciplinary libraries on satellite campuses
- 8.7M print volumes; 1.3M ebooks
- $26M CAD collections budget
  - $20M for subscriptions
  - $4M for monographs
  - $2M for cataloguing, digitization, shipping, etc.
Our Previous Hybrid Collections Model

- Collections Managers in each subject library
- Collection Development Committee for centralized discussions and priority setting
- Licensing, subscription ordering, & invoice processing all managed centrally
- Monograph acquisitions had been centralized in March 2014. Prior to that, subject librarians were responsible for monograph selection and purchasing.
Why the Need for Change?

- Reduced staff complement
- Reduced purchasing power
  - Budget cuts in FY 2014
  - Sustained decline in value of CAD
- Lack of capacity to conduct systematic collections assessment
- Increase in centralized funding of products
- UAlberta’s new strategic directions leading to evolving staff roles
Timeline

- Apr 2014 - Centralization of monograph acquisitions
- Dec 2014 - Collection Management Structure Working Group was formed
- Mar/Apr 2015 - Consultations with UAlberta library staff and Chief Collection Development Officers at other libraries
- Oct 2015 - Final report and recommendations submitted to Senior Leadership Team
- Dec 2015 - Presentations to staff re: new model
- Apr 2016 - Collection Strategies Unit implemented
- Apr 2017 - New fund code system introduced (one code for ongoing subscriptions, one code for one-time purchases)
Workflows

- Developing and refining policies and procedures
- Meetings to discuss what is and is not working
- Google docs
- Made easier due to use of Peoplesoft, rather than acquisitions module in ILS
Communications

- Internal Collections Information Site
  - General info, request forms
- Weekly Blog
  - New acquisitions, platform changes, news from vendors
- New Collections Site for Libraries’ Home Page
- Regular feature on Library News Blog
- Regular meetings with Units and Subject Librarians
  - Once each a semester
Collections News

New Database

We now have access to Bloomsbury’s Drama Online. Drama Online is an award-winning digital library of over 1,700 playtexts, 350 audio plays and 150 hours of video from leading theatre publishers and companies offering a complete multimedia experience of theatre. Features pre-eminent theatre lists of Bloomsbury’s Methuen Drama and Arden Shakespeare imprints, Faber & Faber and Nick Hern Books; production photos from the Victoria and Albert Museum and The American Shakespeare Center; audio plays from L.A. Theatre Works; filmed live performances from leading theatres such as Shakespeare’s Globe; BBC film adaptations and The Hollow Crown. New collections include Playwrights Canada Press, Aurora Metro Books, and Bloomsbury Scholarly Collection: Critical Studies and Performance Practice.

New Platform

There is a new platform for S & P Global’s Net Advantage database featuring investment research, public and private company profiles, market information, and industry surveys. New tools allow for charting and screening of market data. For more information, video tutorials are available.

Quick Links

- Subscribe to Collections News Updates
- Monograph Order Request Form
- Monograph Orders Database
- Subscription or Large Purchase Suggestion Form
- Current Product Trials
- Databases Blocked for VPN Access
- Public Featured Collections Blog

Database Migration Project

- Request Changes to Database Subject Headings
- Request 'Best Bets' Database List
About Us  Our Collection

The University of Alberta Libraries collection supports the University’s teaching and research functions and provide information resources for the University community as well as the general public.

- Recommend a Purchase
- Contact a Subject Librarian
- Contact the Collection Strategies Unit
- New Books List
- Bruce Peel Special Collections

Policies
The policies and guidelines below are followed in collection decisions made by the UofA Libraries:
- Collection Development Policy
- Gifts and Donations
- Guidelines for eBook Selection
- Guiding Principles for Cancellation
- Statement of Principle on Non-disclosure Clauses in Licenses

Statistics & Data
The UofA Libraries is committed to transparency and open data. Follow the links below for information on collections expenditures.
- Collection Budget Expenditures by Vendor
- One Time Payments for Books, by Vendor
- Large One Time Collection Expenditures
- Subscription Expenditures

Featured Resources
- Berg Fashion Library  9/27/2017
- SimplyAnalytics: Mapping for Business and Social Science Research  9/12/2017
- SAGE Research Methods Database  9/12/2017
- Scientific Experiments in Streaming Video  9/12/2017
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Assessment

- An integral component of CSU librarian practice
- Conducted more systematically across all subject areas
  - Assessment rubrics created
    - Cancellation considerations
    - New products (subscriptions or one-time purchases)
- Introduced use of LibInsight for storage of usage statistics
Assessment activities

● Evaluation of University Press ebook acquisitions
● Evaluation of subscription ebook packages
● Acquisition of new resources
● CRKN Journal Usage Project
● Assessment of Abstracting & Indexing only databases
Impact & Challenges

- Impact on staffing in subject libraries
- More active promotion of library collections
- More efficient tracking of license information, and communication of permissions
- Change management
Importance of Incremental Change

- Central licensing of resources for many years, and centrally run demand-driven pilot projects

- Centralization of monograph acquisitions in 2014 paved the way for further centralization

- Initial simplification of fund code structure in 2014 facilitated further reduction to a two code fund system
Summary and Takeaways

- Positive effect of incremental change
- Transparency in process is key
- Importance of seeking input (before and after)
- Communication is essential
- Systematic assessment contributes to improved fiscal responsibility
- Simplifying budgets can be done!
Thank You!

Questions?

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