Performance Measures and Assessment: Critical Tools During Challenging Times

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Assessment and Performance Measurement Forum
Retaining and Cutting: Collections Development in Tight Times

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Colgate University
• Small liberal arts university
• Located in rural upstate New York
• Tradition of excellence in instruction and research

Colgate University
• 2,800 undergraduate students
• 40 majors
• 30 interdisciplinary areas of study

majors

- humanities: 584
- sciences: 663
- social sciences: 492
- undeclared (freshmen): 1,061
Decisions

- How do we make decisions on new subscriptions?
- What made us subscribe to titles? How do we add titles?

V. Requesting a new subscription

Prioritized requests that are submitted by a department as a whole, or by several members of the faculty will receive a higher consideration than requests by a single individual. This policy is in place to (1) ensure that one professor or one specialized area of interest does not dominate a year’s selections and budgetary limits, and (2) avoid duplication of requests and streamline the process.

Requests for new journal subscriptions do not need to specify the volume and number they should be acquired, should be submitted to the Dean’s Office by the last Friday of January. The Faculty Supervisor in the Library’s Conversion Committee reviews all requests.

If the request is approved, we will try to begin the new subscription with the first issue of the current volume or the first issue of the next volume. Please indicate whether back issues are also desired at the time of the request. If approved, back and current issues will be ordered and will be added as the budget permits. Upon receipt of the first issue of a new subscription a notice will be sent to the faculty committee, to the department’s secretary for posting in the office, and to other faculty who may find the title of interest.

Adding serials

- Added via collections – Project Muse
- One to one cancellations
- New program funding (infrequent)
- Data driven
  - Subscribed to SerialsSolutions Counter360 January 2007 and loaded JR1 use stats during the spring
  - Sorted titles by use
  - Surprise>>>>>

Science

Most heavily used title to which we subscribed and we had no current online subscription

Conversion by lack of use

- Converted 2 titles to online only
  - Methods in Enzymology
  - Shakespeare Survey
- Showed virtually no use
- Considered essential by faculty
- Will review use in 2-3 years
Materials expenditures

- 70% on serials
  - 932 print (reduction of 35% from previous year)
  - 1,793 online journals
  - 46,000 total E-Journal access
- Next year
  - Cut of 5% across the board
  - Expecting a similar cut the following year with possible additional reductions in endowment

Serials

- 3,000 total subscriptions and standing orders
  - $1,250,000 – 2008/9
    - Reduce by $130,000 - 2010/11
    - Reduce by $170,000 – 2011/12
  - 2006 cancellation project
    - Cut $172,000
      - 11 low use titles provided $113,000
      - Departments were asked to reduce costs by 5%
      - Use statistics were limited

What titles do we need?

If I have to write a paper – I use Jstor and sometimes Academic Search. Otherwise – I use Google to find information.

Anonymous student

What do students use?

Use stats show what is used

- Jstor = 52% of online full text views (164,000)
- Jstor + aggregator packages = 77% of full text views (242,000)
- Subscribed titles = 23% of full text views (27,000) includes free Highwire titles
- Print – 3,000 uses for social sciences – humanities
  - 17,000 print and internal uses over 3 years from all libraries
  - 5,600 / year including both libraries
What titles do we need?

If we cancel all direct subscriptions –
   • Satisfy 80% of all needs
   • Save 1.2 million
   • Staff could be reassigned from processing print to other functions

Ok, I never thought this would go anywhere!

Deciding on Cancellations

• 3,000 serials (journal and standing orders) to review
• Online usage statistics were up to date (thanks to using SerialsSolutions Counter360)
• No simple way to integrate all the data into any of our existing systems
   • Counter 360 for online use stats
   • III circulation system internal checkout and use statistics (cumulative for 3 years – not annual)
   • Cost data in III acquisitions / Ebsco

Let's Ask the Faculty

• Sent review lists of titles to faculty
• 1 department responded
   • Journal of Hispanic Studies – essential
   • compiled a list of Journals currently in the library that will be of continuing great importance to the program, and we would definitely like to keep them:
     - Cognitive Linguistics
     - Annual Review of Cognitive Linguistics
     - Linguistic Typology
     - Language and Cognitive Processes
     - Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
     - Diachronica
     - Romance Philology
     - Cognition
     - Linguistic Inquiry
     - Rice

The database

• We used FilemakerPro to pull together the data
• Bibliographic and order information came from Innovative Interfaces ISL system
• Cost data came from Ebsco/ Harrassowitz
   • Direct purchase costs added manually
• Online use data came from Counter360
   • Can update it in minutes
• Print use data came from Excel spreadsheet compiled out of III circulation data
• Could incorporate local subject fields and notes
**Sample record**

- Order Record
- Costs from EbscoNET/Manassonz
- Online Use from EbscoSolutions
  - Counter: 360
- Print Use from III Circ

**Database Structure**

**Linking**

- Based on best available key
  - Order number – title to Ebsco Costs
  - BCN – title to subjects, call numbers
  - ISSN – title to use data

**Decisions**

- Criteria for consideration for cancellation
  - Low use – less than 5 uses per year
    - Titles with cost per use of less than $15 / use exempted
  - High cost per use – greater than $100 / use
  - Some core titles exempted
  - 650 titles ended up on the final review list
    - 150 titles had zero (0) uses of any type
    - 240 titles had a cost per use of over $100
You cannot cancel my discipline’s journals. If libraries cancel my journals – how will they survive?

They had zero uses for the past 3 years

Humanities faculty member

Notice to faculty:
Our role is not to support the publication of unused material

Notice to publishers:
Our role is not to provide revenue to you

Filemaker as a platform

- Cost per use

If (CODE4 = "x" or CODE4 = "z");
If((onlineuses2008 ≠ 0);
_marks serial orders 2009.xls_Sheet1::Amount /onlineuses2008;
_marks serial orders 2009.xls_Sheet1::Amount)

- Web publish either from a local computer or on a server – we use the server method which allows more users per day.

Impact Factors

- ISI Impact Factors/ Eigenfactors
- Hana Levay – University of Washington. Creating a Serials Decision Database

https://staffweb.lib.washington.edu/units/cms/serials-review-database-information/

Database

- Provided preformatted searches for faculty by department
  - Titles under review for cancellation
  - All titles in their disciplines
Review

Results list

Different Layouts

Fair Play

- Review was made blind of numbers of titles or costs per department
- Adjustments made for areas which had excessive cancellations
Final decisions

Acta informatica
- "not to be canceled. Most intimately related to our pedagogy and research."
  Faculty comment

1 use during 2 years – online only -
$1,280 / year

This department’s materials showed almost no use across the board and faculty objected to all titles under consideration for cancellation

Reprieve

- Budget recalcualtions for 2008/2009 showed significantly lower inflation lowering the entire base of subscriptions
- Cancellation goals reduced to about half -
  $150,000 for 2 years
  - by taking the majority of the cancellations in the first year, we reduce inflationary pressures and expect smaller cancellations in year 2
- Allows us to focus on the worse performers
  - Zero uses over 2 years
  - Cost exceeding $250 / use

Trades

- Faculty were allowed to suggest alternate titles for cancellation to cover the cost of titles which were on the final list
- The titles had to be from their own discipline
- They could not be high use titles
- No promises made that the titles retained would escape if use remained low
- Non-used titles could not be replaced unless there seemed to be a good reason for the lack of use. (course taught every 4 years)

Questions?

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