Evaluating Collections on a Regular Basis

Beth Fuseler Avery
And
Karen Harker
University of North Texas Libraries

Presented at the American Library Association, June 29, 2014
Approaches

- Minimalistic
- Growing
- Holistic
Minimalistic

Data
- amount spent,
- # of resources in entire collection
- # of subject specific resources

Opinion
Growing

- Easy to gather data
  - Longitudinal trends in circulation of print collection
  - Longitudinal trends in spending
  - Longitudinal trends in collection growth
- Service details
- Details about subject librarian - qualifications
- Connect to specific accreditation requirements, if available
Holistic

- Distribution of collection by age and format
- Comparison of subject area with collection as a whole
- Use of electronic resources
- Comparison of holdings with ILL requests
- Comparison with peers - current and aspirational
- Lots more data
Implementing the process

- Buy in
  - Library administration
  - University administration
  - Subject librarians
  - Subject Departments
The people involved

- Coordinator of Collection Development
- Collection Assessment Librarian
- Assistant Dean for Collection Management
- Library Associate Dean
- Library Dean
- Subject Liaison Librarian
- Faculty Representative from Academic Department.
THE PROCESS

- Communicate
  - Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

- Data, data, data

- Trust but verify
Notification phase

- Receive notice of need
- Determine date due
- Determine who to involve.
Planning Phase
6 to 8 weeks before date due

- Develop timeline for work
- Arrange meetings - with department, Library Dean
- Meet with Department
DATA GATHERING STAGE

- Set up Peer Groups
- Usage Consolidation
- ILS stats
  - Circ
  - ILL
- World Share Collection Evaluation
- Internal Data
Preliminary Report

- Summary of findings
- Meet with Library Dean
- Share with Subject Librarian
The Report

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Collections
- Services
- Facilities & Equipment
- Assessment
- Cover letter from Library Dean
Next steps

- Re-evaluate report
- Subject Collection specific policies
- PDA Analysis
QUESTIONS?