

TSD Discussion: Top Trends in Technical Services

May 6, 2011

MLA/DLA Conference

- E-serials/Databases:
 - Compare usage vs. the cost of inter-library loan
 - Sometimes a lot cheaper to ILL and cancel subscription
 - Serials Librarians need to be “psychic” to predict inflation costs when selecting products
 - Staff should be able to provide input to decision makers when there is discussion on purchasing products
 - Often Databases are aggregators
 - Electronic resources are leased and not owned by libraries
 - Be careful with lapses of subscriptions because it can be very expensive to fill in gaps
- Economy:
 - Cutting titles
 - A large portion of materials are being cut
 - At University of Baltimore Law Library 80% of periodicals are being cut
 - Also a large portion of loose leaf
 - Some libraries have stopped binding
 - Things to consider when cutting materials
 - Contacting vendors
 - Issue of refunds, if cancelled before the end of the subscription period
 - When to cancel
 - What to do with on shelf items that are no longer getting updated
 - Comparing Vendors
 - Time consuming
 - Moving away from vendors and going to retailers (Amazon and Barnes & Noble)
 - Issues with misrepresentation of products
 - Service issues
- Online vs. Print Resources:
 - If materials are available online can the print items be cut/removed
 - Often times print can be more expensive
 - HeinOnline is a common online resource for legal periodicals
 - Examine duplication
 - Especially in times of budget cuts
 - Some materials may appear to be available Online, but might not be full text
 - Decision makers need to be aware of differences between availability of full text vs. abstract
 - There can be a danger when discarding/weeding print
 - Especially if database access is lost
- Digitization:
 - Often done when materials are requested through ILL
 - The original is scanned and the digital version sent to requesting library
 - HathiTrust Project (www.hathitrust.org)
 - College Park participates
 - Scans and makes materials available online
 - Question if to get rid of storage, once digitized
 - Use of Metadata
 - Vendors are costly
 - Copyright?

- Hosting online collection
 - ContentDM (UMBC: <http://contentdm.ad.umbc.edu/>)
 - D-Space (Health Sciences and Human Services Library: <http://archive.hshsl.umaryland.edu/>)
 - Digitization does not always preserve materials
 - Digital materials can also decay, or the technology change
 - Especially should not be used as a substitute of original art or photographs, or of materials of special historical value to a collection. Digitization is a way to make them more accessible to a larger audience and to make more people aware that these items are included in the library's special collections
 - Useful to have one database for all Maryland historical resources?
- Role of Technical Services Staff:
 - Not usually involved in decisions on what to cut or weed (More Collection Development)
 - During the weeding process Services staff, and sometimes Faculty, are usually allowed to review before final decision
 - Influenced by need to work public service desks
 - Tasks for processing/check in staff with less print materials being received
 - Tasks are becoming more "technical"
 - Processors could now assist with digitizing materials
 - Need to provide good training
 - What can be shared?
 - Consider partnering with other libraries when deciding what to do with discarded material; or what to retain and what to discard
 - Other libraries make agreements about selecting what they will keep or discard according to what others will keep or discard (Maryland Shared Distributed Journal Collections Project)
 - Customer/User Services
 - Make resources more user friendly and searchable
 - Discovery tools
 - Integrated searches; search all collections/resources
 - Some libraries have different catalogs for physical materials and E-resources
 - Can be confusing to users
 - Databases may contain print resources that were previously in the system, but if not in catalog users may not be finding the information
 - Program Idea: Collection Management with Technical Services
 - Collection Management decisions that may affect technical services processes
 - For example: Cutting and weeding; Transition to e-only
 - Criteria : Time period print not circulating? E-resources use statistics? Retention of withdrawn status information: Auditing purposes-time frame? Other?
 - Distinction and relationship between Collection Management and Collection Development