Can We Have It All? Do We Want It All? The Evolution of Academic Library Collection Development

INFORUM Conference
Prague
May 26, 2015

Michael Levine-Clark
Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication and Collections Services
University of Denver

https://flic.kr/p/aDHfHc
The academic library exists to preserve knowledge for future generations.
The academic library exists to serve the curricular and research needs of current students and faculty.
Coexisting Missions

Traditionally, access to resources for our students necessitated long-term preservation
Conflicting Missions

Temporary Access
• More resources available to current students and faculty
• Weakens stewardship mission

Permanent Access
• More costly
• Fewer resources for current students and faculty
The library used to be the primary place to find information . . . but not anymore
Student Expectations

• Immediate access to almost everything
• If you can’t get it right away, move on to the next thing
Traditional Collection Development

• Purchase books
  – At point of publication
  – At close to list price
  – Made easier by approval plans
  – Rational
  – Predictable

• Subscribe to journals
  – As they are issued
  – At list price, then at a discount as part of the Big Deal

Buy until the budget is spent
Drawbacks of the traditional model

• Hard to acquire books retroactively
• Difficult to access journal articles without initial subscription
• Lots of low or no-use material
• A somewhat static collection, augmented by interlibrary loan
• Heavy duplication of common materials across libraries
Beginnings of a new model

*Started with journals*

- Shift to *access* through journal packages
  - But with perpetual access rights to some titles
- Reliance on aggregator packages
  - With no perpetual access rights

*We now accept as a given that most of the journals in our collections have only temporary access rights.*
New approaches for books

• Demand-driven acquisition of monographs
  – Mostly ebooks
• Subscription packages of ebooks

• Possible because of print-on-demand, decreased chance of books going out of print, better used book market

*Libraries treat these as supplementary models to traditional book buying*
What if we became more aggressive?
A (mostly) demand-driven collection?

• Load records into catalog
  – Any book with potential relevance to curricular and research focus of university
• Subscribe to some titles
• Purchase the right format for the moment
  – POD
  – eBook

At the moment, Most books not available for local POD or as ebook on DDA
What would be necessary to expand DDA?

• All books available as POD, ebook
• No book ever goes out of print
• Guaranteed access to not-yet-purchased titles
Ensuring Future Access

• Portico, LOCKSS/CLOCKSS protect what we’ve already licensed

• We need a solution to protect what we have not yet licensed
Just imagine . . .

- ALL relevant titles available to our students
- Purchase based on use

https://flic.kr/p/yNpLa
A demand-driven collection

- Confidence that a title will *always* be available for *potential* purchase
- Demand-drive collection size bounded
  - At the lower end by limitations in academic quality, curricular match
  - At the upper end by budget
What about journals?
A better question:
What about *articles*?
ProQuest Acquires SIPX

April 9, 2015
By Carl Straumsheim

ProQuest's investments in the discovery stage of research continued this week as the company acquired the Silicon Valley–based start-up SIPX.
To what extent can article-level rental replace subscriptions and the big deal?
The Big Deal

• Often a very good deal
• Often unaffordable

... a medium or small deal supplemented by article rental?
Back to that *Stewardship* idea
A Broader Definition of Special Collections

- Rare books
- Manuscripts
- Archives
- *But also* resources important to the institution

https://flic.kr/p/9gvwfF
Other Collections

To the extent possible, all material not included in this more expansive definition of Special Collections will be provided temporarily

• On demand
• Via subscription with no post-cancellation rights
Shared Print Archiving

- Libraries will more aggressively decrease legacy print holdings
- Regional, national last copy policies and procedures
- Collaborative prospective collection building

This is one way that libraries will fulfill the stewardship mission
Expanding the scope of collections

- Research support and analysis
- Citation management
- Primary sources
Expanding Even Further

We concentrate our efforts on a very small portion of a huge potential collection

The Universe of Information

Scholarly Resources

Traditional Collection
COLLECTIONS GRID
(Lorcan Dempsey and Eric Childress, OCLC Research)
The Value of Discovery

• The collection is
  – Both owned and unowned
  – Physical and digital
  – Locally, regionally, nationally, globally dispersed

• Discovery is crucial
Delivery is Key

Discovery only matters if access is immediate

• Local POD
• Unmediated ebook, article delivery replaces ILL
• Ordering physical copies from other libraries a last resort, but delivery will be fast

https://flic.kr/p/pzxUQF
For more on this topic

http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/portal_libraries_and_the_academy/portal_pre_print/articles/14.3clark.pdf

Michael Levine-Clark
michael.levine-clark@du.edu

http://www.slideshare.net/MichaelLevineClark/

https://flic.kr/p/8vT9yB