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A Study of Interdisciplinary Research Needs: Results from Input of Faculty in Six Engineering Departments in Prioritizing Serial Subscriptions

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A Study of Interdisciplinary Research Needs

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Serials Prioritization Project

- Use of the word "Cancellation" was Verboten!
- Team was assigned to run the project – Serials Prioritization Project Team (SPPT)
- Amount of cut was unknown at the onset - approximately 20%
- Dean of Libraries designated a $ amount attributable to LC call number ranges, for a total of 50 call number ranges. Among them:
  – T, TA, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TJ, TK, TL, TS – one $ amount
  – TP and TR each had separate $ amounts
  – TT and TX had one $ amount

Serials Prioritization Project – Communications

- The SPPT set up a web site with project details, guidelines, and timetables at the beginning of the project.
- Deans of the colleges were informed of the upcoming process in the Spring of 2002
- Campus Announcements
- Articles in campus news publications

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase One

- Creation of a Database
- Assignment of record number ranges for each LC call number
  – Q's (General Science) Records # 5022-5094 or 75 records
  – T-TX's (Technology) Records # 8162-9160 or 998 records

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase One

- Civil Engineering
- Construction Management
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Mechanics
- Industrial Management and Systems Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Physics and Astronomy

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase One

•*IEEE/IEE IEL/Xplore* "Problem"

–Recently acquired *IEL*

–Previously had print for all IEEE journals and conference proceedings – all were in SPP database

–Only a few of the IEE titles were in the SPP database since IEL was a recent acquisition and new IEE titles had not yet been entered.

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase One

•All records in the database were "enhanced" to add:

–Most recent subscription price – obtained from the acquisitions record for each title – for continuations we averaged the prior three years' prices

–Information about whether the title was part of a membership, package plan, electronic format, etc.

–Any notes we wanted to add such as pricing history

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase Two

•A "Shopping Cart" system was created so that the subject librarian could pull off records from the enhanced database onto either a word document or a spreadsheet.

•Librarians could pick any title, in any call number area to submit to "their" departments and they were encouraged by the SPPT to be inclusive in their selection.

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase Two

•For Engineering – records were put into the shopping cart and two files were created

–1. All T's except most of TT (handicrafts), and without any of TX (home economics)

–2. Other call number areas

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase Two

•T's 913 Titles plus 4 titles added in the previous year that were not in the enhanced database

– *COMPUTER MODELING IN ENGINEERING & SCIENCES.*

– *AMERICAN HERITAGE: INVENTION AND TECHNOLOGY*

– *JOURNAL OF NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY.*

– *JOURNAL OF WATER SUPPLY: RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - AQUA*

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase Two

•GHKLNAQRSUVZ - 462 Titles

- G- Geography
- H - Statistics, Business, Finance, Economics, Labor, Energy, Transportation, etc.
- K - Law
- L - Education
- NA - Architecture
- Q's - Science
- R - Medicine
- S- Agriculture
- U and V - Military
- Z - Bibliographies.

Serials Prioritization Project – Phase Two

•GHKLNAQRSUVZ - 462 Titles
• Q – General Science
• QA - Mathematics and Computer Science
• QC - Physics
• QD - Chemistry
• QE - Geology
• QH - Ecology and Environment
• QP - Bio(mechanics)

Serials Prioritization Project –
Phase Two – Communication with Faculty

•The SPPT set up a web site on the restricted portion of the librarians' web site
–Talking points for liaison librarians
–Sample letter to faculty
–Guidelines for considerations in the prioritization process

Serials Prioritization Project –
Phase Two – Communication with Faculty

•SPPT Guidelines and Requirements
–Librarians could determine their own method of communication with "their" faculty
–Librarians must obtain from their faculty a list of titles rated with one of three levels of desirability :
•E for Essential
•S for Supportive
•N for Non Essential

Serials Prioritization Project –
Phase Three – Ranked Lists

•SPPT Guidelines and Requirements
Liaison librarians must produce a list of serials for each of their departments that are RANKED from 1 to n, with n being the number of titles rated by the faculty. Titles submitted to the faculty and not rated by any faculty could be assigned a rank of zero if the liaison librarian felt the title was expendable.

Serials Prioritization Project –
Phase Three – Ranked Lists

•SPPT Guidelines and Requirements
Liaison librarians could use other input, at their discretion, to produce the rankings.
For example:
- Number of faculty that gave input for a title
- Use statistics
- Journal price increases
- Journal citation statistics (JCR)
- Value as a reference tool

Serials Prioritization Project –
Phase Three – Ranked Lists

- SPPT Guidelines and Requirements
- Liaison librarians must enter into another database, created for the purpose, for each serial title:
  - The rank and
  - The requesting department.
  - Additionally, the desired format could be denoted.

Obtaining Input from Faculty

- Engineering
  - Emailed department "book chairs" as a warning
  - Emailed all faculty
- Explanation in the email
- Two files as attachments MS Excel
- Deadline for input

Obtaining Input from Faculty

- Physics & Astronomy– sent email and file attachment (MS Excel) only to Physics Chair and "Book Chair"
  - Astronomy 31 titles
  - Physics, General Science & Math – 354 titles
  - Selected Chemistry – 40 titles
  - Other, including newly added titles - 192 titles

Compiling Multiple Responses

- **For example for five faculty responses:**
  - **EEEEE D1**
  - **EEEES D2**
  - **EEEE D3**
  - **EEESS D4**
  - **EEES D5 and so on.**

Ranking the Titles

- Added Circulation Statistics to the Spreadsheet
- Added "pick-up" statistics from the last year
- Sorted first by Department Ratings, then by Total Statistics
- Made some adjustments based on other needs for the title

RESULTS – Top 30 FACULTY SELECTIONS – BY LC #

- Industrial & Mgmt. Sys. Eng. 11 subject areas
- Civil Engineering 8 subject areas

•Mechanical Engineering 8 subject areas
•Construction Management 7 subject areas
•Electrical Engineering 6 subject areas
•Physics and Astronomy 6 subject areas
•Engineering Mechanics 4 subject areas

RESULTS – ALL RANKED TITLES – BY LC #

•Electrical Engineering 26 subject areas
•Engineering Mechanics 25 subject areas
•Civil Engineering 24 subject areas
•Mechanical Engineering 20 subject areas
•Construction Management 13 subject areas
•Physics and Astronomy 13 subject areas
•Industrial & Mgmt. Sys. Eng. 12 subject areas

RESULTS – Top 30 FACULTY SELECTIONS – BY LC #

•Subject areas with the highest total number of titles selected were:

- TA – General Engineering - 64 title selections
- QC – Physics - 38 title selections. Of these, 18 came from departments other than Physics.
- TK – Electrical Engineering - 18 title selections
- HD – Economic History - 14 title selections. Thirteen of these came from "Management Departments".
- T – General Technology - 11 title selections.

RESULTS – ALL TITLES FACULTY SELECTIONS – BY LC #

•TA – General Engineering - 475 title selections
•QC – Physics - 246 title selections. Less than 50% of these came from Physics.
•T – General Technology - 136 title selections
•TD – Environmental Engineering - 90 title selections
•QA – Mathematics, Computer Science - 85 title selections
•HD – Economic History - 58 title selections. Selections came from all departments except Physics.
•Q – Science (General) - 54 title selections
•R – General Medicine - 37 title selections

RESULTS

Summary Statements

•Faculty from every department except Civil Engineering indicated an interest in medicine

•Faculty from all seven departments selected titles in general technology, general engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering.

•Faculty from four departments selected Naval or Military Science titles.

RESULTS

LC Call #'s of Title Selections

•AZ – History of Scholarship & Learning

•GB - Geography

- GC - Oceanography
- HC & HD – Economic History
- HE – Transportation and Communications
- HF - Commerce
- HV - Social Service, Welfare, Criminology
- K - Law

RESULTS
LC Call #'s of Title Selections

- L - Education
- Q - Science (General)
- QA - Mathematics & Computer Science
- QB - Astronomy
- QC - Physics
- QD - Chemistry
- QE - Geology
- QH - Biology
- QP - Physiology

RESULTS
LC Call #'s of Title Selections

- NA - Architecture
- R – General Medicine
- RC - Internal Medicine
- S - Agriculture
- U – Military Science
- V - Naval Science

RESULTS OF THE PROCESS

- Input from multiple departments was a factor in title retention
- Faculty in a department can rate titles that are not in the library associated with their department and that are not in the LC call # range associated with their department
- Faculty were given the opportunity to suggest new titles

RESULTS OF THE PROCESS

- The SPPT used the database of prioritized titles to compile a list of "Lower Priority Titles"
- The "Lower Priority Title" list was distributed to the liaison first, then to the faculty for their input
- The SPPT generated a list of "Higher Priority New Titles"

•Liaison Librarians worked with their faculty and the SPPT to retain disputed "Lower Priority Titles", to obtain agreement to leave them on the list, or to make tradeoffs, such as against "Higher Priority New Titles"

Results for Engineering

•153 Titles that were rated by faculty in the six engineering departments will be cancelled

–74 titles are located in the Engineering Library

–Total cost of the titles to be cancelled: $107,363

–LC Call #'s of the titles to be cancelled

•GC, HD, HF, QA, QC, QE, QH, Z

•T, TA, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TJ, TK, TL, TN, TP, TS

Results for Engineering

•10 New Titles that were requested by faculty from the six engineering departments will be added to the Engineering Library collection.

•Added will be ongoing funding for the electronic version of the ASCE journals

•Added will be a limited site license for electronic access to a Water Resources title

Results for Engineering

•Total Cost of the added titles: $10,446 out of a total of $98,713 for all titles added.

•LC Call #'s of the added titles:

–HD – 1 title

–QP – 1 title

–RC – 1 title

–T – 1 title

–TA - 4 titles

–TD – 1 title

–TL – 1 title