The Cycle of User-Responsive Collection Development in Digital Libraries

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The Cycle of User-Responsive Collection Development in Digital Libraries

Presenter 1 Title
Senior Digital Projects Librarian

Presenter 2 Title
Digital Library Projects Coordinator

Session Type
45-minute concurrent session

Abstract
Traditional collection development strategies may not be sufficient to effectively expand the use of a digital library or repository. Librarians working on FRASER, a digital library of economic history that is both a subject and institutional repository, have developed a cyclical strategy of user-responsive collection development. Collections developed in response to stakeholder needs include materials on historic responses to mortgage defaults during the Great Depression, and on the causes of historic panics and depressions, which grew out of the research priorities of policymakers and economists during the financial crisis of 2007. This session will provide an overview of FRASER's traditional collection development policy and demonstrate the cyclical model of user-responsive collecting with concrete use cases.

Location
KIPJ D

Keywords
digital libraries, collection development, institutional repositories, stakeholders, users, use case

This 45-minute concurrent session is available at Digital USD: https://digital.sandiego.edu/symposium/2016/2016/15
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The Cycle of User-Responsive Collection Development in Digital Libraries
(45 minute concurrent session)

Presenters
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Abstract
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Session Description
FRASER, the digital library of economic history, uses a collection development strategy consciously
incorporating user feedback and partner input. FRASER is part of a research department that includes
other research information output of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. This includes the Economic
Education program, which produces personal finance, economics, and economic history lessons for
teachers, and the FRED suite of websites, which aggregate and make available to the public economic
and business datasets. In recent years, FRASER librarians have made an effort to adjust collection
development strategies to coordinate with these information products and better respond to the needs
of our collective audience.

In 2004, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Research Library saw an opportunity to build a digital
library focused on economic and banking history, and created the Federal Reserve Archival System for
Economic Research (FRASER). Beginning with historic economic statistical publications produced by both
the federal government and the Federal Reserve Banks, FRASER’s digitization projects focused on
granting researchers access to data on historic economic conditions in the United States.

To provide further context for our users, we added monetary policy documents (including congressional
hearings, speeches, and testimony of Federal Reserve Chairman and Board members), and developed
deep collections on monetary policy history and early central banking in the United States. Through
partnerships with other Federal Reserve Banks, the Library of Congress, and other research institutions,
we have digitized institutional publications not widely available to the public as well as significant
archival collections and Federal Reserve records relating to economic and banking history.

Although the core of FRASER’s collection remains the institutional output of the Federal Reserve System,
we have developed strategies for adding additional materials and expanding collections in direct
response to the needs of our internal and external stakeholders.
The user-responsive cycle of collection development for FRASER has five basic steps:

1. Working from the formal collection development plan, identify gaps in the existing collection
2. Add content
3. Working with partners, identify specific uses for the new content
4. Identify additional content that needs to be added to support these uses
5. Reassess collection development priorities and revise as necessary

Because we digitize in-house, FRASER has the flexibility to efficiently add materials in direct response to the needs of stakeholders. Internal and external users have requested material on many topics. When stakeholder requests fit with our mission and our budget, they are added to our project list. At times, recommendations do not fit our mission or our collections; those we leave to other, more suitable digital libraries.

This session will provide an overview of FRASER and the FRASER collection development policy, and will illustrate user needs and collections strategies with specific examples.

By the conclusion of this session, attendees should be able to:

- Define and discuss cyclical user-centric collection development
- Recognize appropriate collection development responses to specific user needs
- Infer possible applications of this collection development model for other repository or digital library contexts.

**Keywords**
digital libraries, collection development, institutional repositories, stakeholders, users, use case

**Technology requirements**
Computer with PowerPoint and internet access and overhead screen preferred