Don’t forget the qualitative: Including focus groups in the collection assessment process

[CINF-10]

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Science & Engineering Library, UC San Diego
ACS Meeting, August 22, 2010
Why Focus Groups?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departments</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Grad Students</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering/Computer Science</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math/Physics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical/Structural Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry/Biochemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioengineering/Materials Science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>46</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chemistry Grad Students

- Biochemistry (5)
- Inorganic/Organometallic
- Computational
- Nanomaterials
- Organic
- Physical
What Resources Do You Use?
• Awareness of access limitations
• Dislikes login, downloading
• Useful for structure searching
• Interface isn’t that useful
• Google (Scholar) + PubMed
• Direct access to journals
  – Problems getting to full-text
• Search on specifics (words in article, title)
  ✓ Find articles you wouldn’t find in PubMed

• Filtering works
  – Filtering fails (vs. WoS)
• More content than journals
  ✓ Good for finding relevant, most cited
  – Advanced publications don’t show up
• Can find relevant articles, easy to search by author
• For broad searching
• More journal-focused, more specific

• Does more, easier (vs. WoS)
• Easier to identify most recent articles (vs. GS)
• Not in love with PubMed
  ✔ Doesn’t cover [student’s] journals well
What resources...?
• Becoming important to see if someone’s doing something
• Find things that are remotely related, not directly related to search
• Avoid reinventing wheel
• Can save time looking for papers (Google Scholar)
• Students rely too much on Google; stop searching when they can’t find ‘it.’

• Google Scholar?
• Google not authoritative, but journals not always authoritative
Who showed you...?

- Advisors/PI’s/grad students
- Carried over from undergrad
- Self-taught
- Some lab preferences
- Librarian workshop
TOC, ASAP alerts

• RSS:
  – uses, experimenting, don’t use, RSS?

• E-Mail
  – Can keep up
  – Too many emails

“Check back”

• Database searches
  – (PubMed, Google)

• ASAP browsing

From http://flic.kr/p/6JHfKN (tmvogel)
How do you keep up?

- Checks journals weekly
- Dislikes RSS
- Discovery > Efficiency

- Despairs of keeping up
- Used to review TOC’s of 15-20 journals
- SciFinder KMP
  - Narrowing for good results a challenge
How do you manage?

http://flic.kr/p/7pHHia (Jessica Norman/proteinbiochemist)
How do you manage?
How do you manage?

- Adobe PDF
- EndNote

- Adobe PDF
- Microsoft Word
What About E-Books??

- **Students prefer print textbooks**
- Used as undergrad
- Likes books they have used
- Has been using Google Books
- Don’t know what we have
  - *If you aren’t thinking about e-books, you’re not going to think about going to them.*
Other questions, concerns?

• Nature Chemistry
• *Generally find what I need* and ILL
• Questions
  – Dissertations
  – Books scanned
  – SciFinder usage
• Instruction
  – Workshops
  – A-Z Lists
  – *Won’t look at emails until they need to*
What WE Learned*

• Observations

• Surprises

• *and how we can apply what we’ve learned
Next Steps

• Conduct a survey of same departments to gather quantitative data.

• Model survey on one conducted by Niu et al of STEM researchers at 5 US research universities. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 61, no. 5 (2): 869-890
**Focus Groups and Analysis of Qualitative Data**


**Survey of Information Seeking Behavior of academic researchers**

• Librarians Association of the University of California – San Diego

• Mary Linn Bergstrom
  SuHui Ho
  Deborah Kegel
  David Schmitt