Association for Library Collections and Technical Services Midwinter Symposium

By Estelle Hu

Thanks to the LHS Professional Development Fund for sponsoring me to attend the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services Symposium on January 30, 2015. It was a very nice experience for me to attend the symposium. I got the chance to keep updated on the latest trends of collection development strategies. I was also pleased to make connections with other collection development librarians at the symposium.

New ideas were brought up at the symposium with collection development librarians. I am happy to share them as follows.

A major idea that I learned is the shift in emphasis from the library’s local collection to access to resources available in the information age from all over the world. The practice of collection development will be a service shifting from data driven acquisition of license collection to research based in discovery of information. A broader aspect of collection development is to help users to discover the available resources; i.e. to explore more information than the library’s own resources. It includes library licensed collections, institutional collections, open access material, and other free online resources such as Google.

Another concept/experience shared was Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA). Monograph PDA and PDA articles were introduced. One of the major reasons to implement PDA is for the purpose of return on investment. Digital publishing also encourages the concept when libraries have budget concerns. It is hard for librarians to predict users’ needs and libraries want to invest in the materials that are being used. Based on these reasons, libraries want to let users make the purchase decision to make sure that the purchased materials will be used. The user-centered approach to a PDA model helps libraries to acquire the needed items into the library collection. In this model, students have more power in shaping library collection than faculty.

Libraries spend a big portion of their budgets on acquiring online journal packages. Academic libraries have been exploring alternatives to publisher’s “Big Deal” e-journal packages due to budgetary concerns. A new collection development strategy, Pay-Per-View (PPV) has been introduced. This model would allow library users to get the journal content via PPV instead of journal subscriptions to reduce journal expenditure. It allows articles to be purchased on an individual basis. Most of the PPV pilot programs worked well in smaller scale academic libraries.
The University Libraries at UIC is a large urban academic library. We have tried PDA pilot programs for two years. We will explore the possibilities of the PPV program in the future.

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