Mind the Gap: An Assessment of kpLibraries’ Core e-Book and Print Titles
Tori Ward, MLIS Candidate & Loree Hyde MLIS

Project Description

**Purpose:** The purpose of our project is to assess and enhance kpLibraries' national e-book collection and to provide the appropriate e-resources and materials for our patrons. The project supports kpLibraries' national Resource Management policy that requires maintenance of a “current, authoritative collection of books, multimedia, and electronic materials in the areas of health sciences, clinical, educational, professional development, patient care services and consumer health information...”. We aim to further develop all processes of collection development for our e-book collection and to characterize interlibrary library loan (ILL) and book request usage patterns.

**Scope:** Our data sources range from Sierra, Access Medicine, Clinical Key Nursing, R2, Psychiatry Online, Nutrition Care Manuals, titles we purchased a la carte, and Stat!Ref. We gathered usage data starting from 2016 through the first half of 2018. Sierra is the only source whose data begins at 2013 due to its list creation function being unable to set parameters.

**Methodology:** We compared our print and e-book collection to an external collection development resource, Doody’s Core Titles, and assessed which titles we owned and which titles we were missing from the list. We also looked at the circulation data for each title that we owned to suggest where in the collection we can make informed purchasing and weeding decisions.

Color Coding

When extracting our Sierra data, we found that there were many records that were unnecessary to include in our assessment. To narrow down our data, we implemented a series of inclusion and exclusion criteria and color coded necessary and unnecessary data. Records to keep were green. Records we were unsure of were yellow. Records that were unneeded were colored red and those that had insufficient metadata within the colored blue.

Doody Core Titles Availability by Format

Doody Core Titles in Our Collection Available in Other Editions

Doody Core Titles in Our Collection

Percentage of Print Doody Core Titles Used

Percentage of e-book Doody Core Titles Used

Inclusion/ Exclusion Criteria

The number of print titles retrieved from the initial print data extraction. Our count of the data after our initial edit of the data. We identified and removed consumer health titles and any titles belonging to special collections. Our count during our third evaluation of the data. We reevaluated and removed all titles color coded in red and all duplicates labeled for removal. Before coming to our final count, we evaluated all pastoral and death/ bereavement related titles and decided that they were related to healthcare more than consumer health.

Next Steps

Weeding: Using usage and circulation data, we will take to making decisions on how to enhance our collection by weeding out titles that no longer meet the needs of our users. From this process we hope to build upon our existing weeding policies.

Collection Development: With this data, we aim to properly identify high use subject areas as possible e-book collection development opportunities. This step also includes analyzing interlibrary loan data for any particular titles we could add to our collection as e-books.

Marketing: The low-use e-book titles that we aim to keep within the collection will need improved marketing strategies to make them more visible to our users. We will use e-book usage data and additional data on our most popular subjects to display our e-book collection more efficiently.

At the end of this process, we hope to create a threshold formula to initiate future purchases rather than interlibrary loan requests.