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

[CINF-10]

Teri M. Vogel, Susan Shepherd
Science & Engineering Library, UC San Diego
ACS Meeting, August 22, 2010
Why Focus Groups?

http://flic.kr/p/5BmdXB (ucsdscieng)
### Participants

<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>
• Biochemistry (5)
• Inorganic/Organometallic
• Computational
• Nanomaterials
• Organic
• Physical
• 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
• Advisors/PI’s/grad students
• Carried over from undergrad
• Self-taught
• Some lab preferences
• Librarian workshop
How do you keep up?

**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](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?

http://flic.kr/p/7pHHia (Jessica Norman)
http://flic.kr/p/4F44o8 (brokenthoughts)
http://flic.kr/p/3EeHuB (pgoyette)
How do you manage?
• 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
• Observations

• Surprises

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

• Mary Linn Bergstrom
  SuHui Ho
  Deborah Kegel
  David Schmitt