



Open Educational Resources at UNC-Greensboro- Alternatives to Pricy Textbooks

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why data-driven approach?

- budget and space constraints
- e-book utilization
- usage data availability
- balanced scorecard approach

data sources

- integrated library system
- vendor acquisitions data
- usage statistics
- collection analysis tools

research questions:

- do monographic selections meet user needs?
- do some subjects/book types circulate more than others?
- do institutional priority areas circulate more than other subject areas?
- how can we improve circulation numbers through better selection?

methodology

- extract circulation data for all books purchased during past 2 calendar years
- sort by NLM subject areas
- determine subjects most/least used
- identify subjects for further study

data calculated

1. average number of loans for each subject area
2. looked at subjects with highest percentages of books in subject area with:
 - 0 loans
 - 1 loan
 - 0-3 loans
 - > 3 loans
 - > 6 loans
3. ranked each category by subject area

data analysis

- some subject areas had too few books to extrapolate
- some subjects had interesting results and required in-depth analysis:
 - Radiology- over 50% circulated >5 times
 - Communicable Diseases- 46.2% never circulated
 - Nursing- lower circ numbers than expected
 - Pharmacology- performed better than expected
 - Surgery- 33.3% never circulated

subject analysis

- books physically examined in the above five subjects
- type: textbook, study guide, atlas or handbook
- clinical vs. research
- edition number
- theoretical vs. practical
- special physical characteristics
- Doody's Core Title

results and conclusions

- highest average number of loans in biology, radiology, human anatomy, pharmacology and cardiovascular system
- lowest average number of loans in (look these up)
- e-book versions of books generally used more than print counterparts
- books with low page numbers circulated less - big, heavy books DO circulate!
- books with multiple editions circulated more
- Doody's Core Titles were not always highly circulated in some subject areas
- core titles still need to be available in print

next steps

- continue physical examination of other subject areas
- set baselines for Balanced Scorecard approach
- increase average number of loans per subject area by improving selection decisions
- analyze cost-per-use by subject area
- reach out to users in under-utilized subject areas