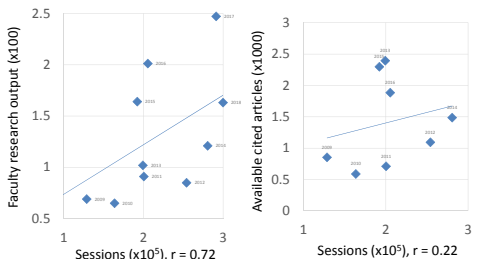
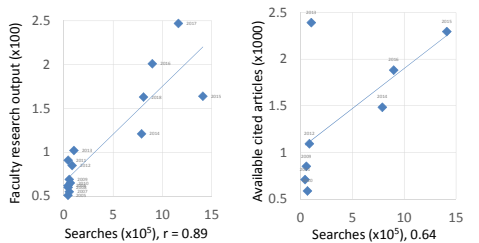
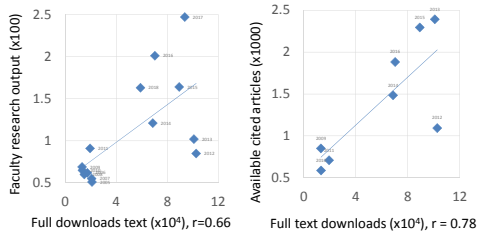


Developing a Method to Examine the Impact of Library Electronic Resources on Research Output for a Medium-sized Academic University in the UAE

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Purpose

Middle Eastern universities have recently been included in international rankings, driving a shift in priorities from teaching to research. The Library and Learning Commons of Zayed University has just completed one year of collection assessment for this transition. This study provides an overview of how electronic resources adequacy was measured, and correlations between utilization of resources and research output were determined. A systematic approach is presented to assess electronic resources impact and to investigate and demonstrate the Library's support of research output.



Methodology and Approach

In 2016, Zayed University Library held 646,461 titles in the collection and 438,237 in electronic format, of which 139,415 (31.81%) were journals, 298,728 (68.17%) were books, and the rest were other electronic resources. Both collection-based and use-based analyses were applied to the assessment model (Figure 1). In this bivariate analysis model, each analysis included metrics relying on several sources of data (Constantin, 2012). All metrics carried the same weight in the overall decision-making process on determining the correlation for in-depth analysis.

Journal article publications from 2009 to 2016 with at least one Zayed University affiliated author were collected from Scopus, the abstract and citation database operated by Elsevier BV. Sources used within these articles were analyzed. COUNTER usage statistics of three indicators (searches, sessions and full-text downloads) were collected from the most used electronic resources in the Library to define the correlation between usage and research activities in the university.

Results

The change in university direction toward research is apparent in the data from Fall 2014 onwards (Figure 2). Since then, faculty publication output grew rapidly and was positively correlated with library resources use. Sessions and searches displayed a strong positive relationship with research output while the correlation with full-text downloads was moderate (Figure 3). This was true for individual colleges as well as for the university as a whole, supporting the assumption that library utilization is highly correlated with the growth of research productivity.

Figure 2. Use of library resources from Jan 2005 to July 2018

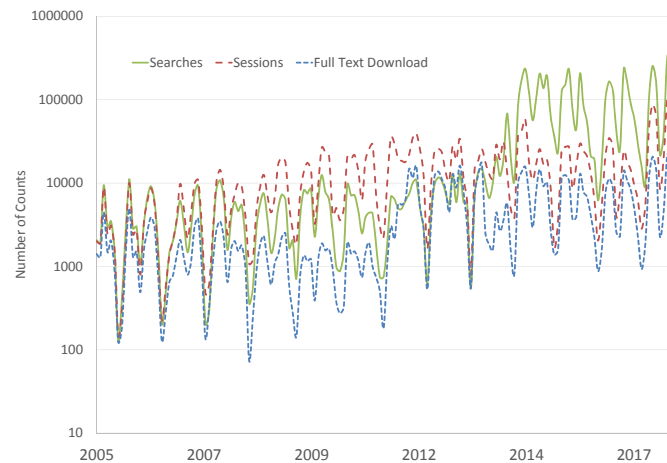
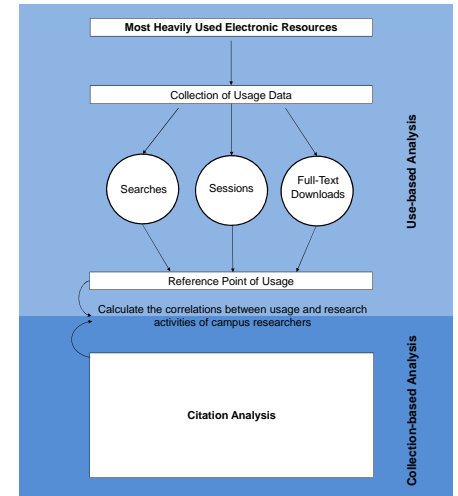


Figure 3. Correlations between the research output (number of Scopus listed articles) of faculty from 2009 to 2016, and the number of articles cited within that were available in the library, and three library resource usage metrics.

Figure 1. Electronic resources assessment model used at Zayed University Library (Ho, 2018a).



Conclusions

Results of this assessment were used to justify the budget allocation of Zayed University Library for supporting research, and to improve to focus of collection development to better meet researchers' needs. The most important outcomes were to provide evidence-based information to library management for strategic planning and evaluation of their changing role in the digital age.

Assessment is costly of professional time. Limited technical support and a high staff turnover were barriers to the completion of this assessment project. Nevertheless, data visualization has enabled us to understand library resource use for research more deeply, assisting our future strategic planning and ongoing collection development. The data brings us walking through the past.

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