Where do we go from here? Planning a collection assessment strategy that goes beyond the basics.

BACKGROUND.
The UNT Libraries Collection Assessment Department bolstered the data that effectively describe our collections. Now that we have our “ducks in a row,” where do we go from here? The department embarked on a strategic planning journey, discussing information gaps by those who make decisions about our collections, those who make decisions about the direction of collection management, and those who report on the impact of libraries on student and faculty outcomes.

OBJECTIVES.
We seek to gain an understanding of the questions or problems that our key stakeholders have regarding our collections, then to develop a program theory of Collections Analyses, including:
• data value chain,
• a logic model,
• a set of analyses to address these problems,
• document a value chain related to our collections data.

METHODS.
We conducted separate interviews with each group of stakeholders with differing interests:
• Collection Development librarians,
• Cataloging librarians,
• Subject librarians.
We also conducted a literature review for existing questions.
A logic model was developed for clarification on where the different stakeholders' consensus questions about use of the collection could be answered.

RESULTS.
Collection Development Librarians:
• How data is used:
  • evaluating incoming requests for new resources,
  • the most appropriate acquisition models.
• Like this data provided to compare with similar resources:
  • cost-per-use,
  • circulation,
  • ILL requests.
• Wanted measures of:
  • current strength of a collection,
  • faculty interest in a resource collection,
  • long-term impact of a collection enhancement project.

Cataloging librarians:
• Wanted data to:
  • Evaluating the quality of resource discovery,
  • Determine the most useful metadata that can be made available to users in the discovery interface.

Subject Liaison Librarians:
• How data could be used:
  • Identify the resources their distinct user group preferred,
  • Their group's research needs.
• Wanted measures that:
  • Aggregate their particular subgroups of users' research needs,
  • Summarize their group's interest in particular subjects or formats.

DISCUSSION.
Shifts:
• From single-subjects to interdisciplinary subjects,
• From broad group to sub-group analyses,
• From "impressions" of needs to text-mining and unstructured data analyses,
• From historical trends to forecasting,
• From describing inputs and outputs to determining impact on outcomes, both students' and faculty's.

Planning:
Development of a logic model and data value chain models for our assessment plans.