BACKGROUND: OCLC’s GreenGlass is a tool for discovering duplicate monographs within OCLC’s own collection, or finding overlap with other institutions. A literature review of GreenGlass reporting suggests that it has most commonly been used for purposes of weeding. From Collections to Collaboration: Building for the Future

A viability study of GreenGlass for analyzing the UC Berkeley Library collections

CASE STUDY 1: Would GreenGlass be effective at locating unique items in circulating collections that are frequently used? This is a category of materials that is particularly vulnerable to damage and loss, the impact of which may be significant if these items are impossible or difficult to replace.

A query was designed to produce a list of UNIQUE BOOKS FROM CIRCULATING COLLECTIONS that are:

- FREQUENTLY USED
- MAY BE VULNERABLE
- NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

**Step 1:** Limit the search results to books from circulating locations:
- Format = BOOKS
- Location = Specific locations

**Step 2:** Limit the search results to books not digitized = NOT in HathiTrust.

**Step 3:** For uniqueness, three geographic locations were used: unique within the U.S. system, unique within California institutions, and unique within U.S. institutions.
- UC System: fewer than 2 (any edition)
- U.S. Holdings: fewer than 4 (any edition)

**Step 4:** For “high use,” three scenarios were used:
- Recorded uses = more than 2 or 5 or 10
- Last charge date = after 2015

**Findings and recommendations:** GreenGlass identified items that are unique and high use within three areas: the UC system, unique within California institutions, and unique within U.S. institutions.

CASE STUDY 2: Can GreenGlass be a useful tool for collaborative collection development? Does GreenGlass reveal areas of overlap that UC Berkeley has with other institutions? Can areas of overlap be used to inform collecting strategies? Can potential partners be identified for building shared collections? Knowing how much collections overlap with those at other institutions is critical for identifying potential partners to build shared collections.

**This Case Study** examines three area studies collections at UC Berkeley — Slavic, Middle Eastern studies, and Japanese Buddhist literature — with which there is overlap. Using the WorldShare Collection Evaluation service (developed by OCLC) in conjunction with GreenGlass,

**Findings and recommendations:**
- GreenGlass revealed overlapping Slavic and Middle Eastern studies monographs at UC Berkeley and UCLA.
- Further deepening the analysis in a given subject, UC Berkeley’s Buddhist holdings in Japanese were compared against UCLA’s holdings. To identify overlap between the institutions, the analysis also used collection data from the WorldShare Collection Evaluation service.
- The analysis not only gives the breakdown of the data by publication year, but also shows specific overlap in both libraries’ noncirculating Japanese holdings in Buddhism. Does GreenGlass reveal areas of overlap that UC Berkeley has with other institutions? Can areas of overlap be used to inform collecting strategies? Can potential partners be identified for building shared collections?

**Findings and recommendations:**
- GreenGlass is a useful tool in helping to identify areas of collection strength when comparing against peer libraries. This makes it very useful beyond collection weeding. A collector’s strength depends on a number of factors, such as where and in what languages its materials were published, and nuanced search features in GreenGlass enable a more precise evaluation of area studies collections. The area studies collections used for this case study were made further complicated by their interdisciplinary nature and the variety of formats and languages. A simple use case focusing on fewer collection variables would be easy to prepare by comparison. While GreenGlass on its own cannot be used to discover a potential partner, combining it with other tools such as OCLC’s WorldShare Collection Evaluation service is an especially powerful strategy for discovering potential partners for collaborative collection development.

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