**INTRODUCTION**

Muhlenberg College
- 4-year selective liberal arts college
- 2,450 student FTE
- 38 majors, 32 minors, & pre-K-12 certifications

**collection data**

What does book use look like at Muhlenberg?
- Overall, books account for 59% of titles used and 47% of uses when looking at books, journals, & audiovisual resources.
- Print books remain important, although ebooks are used much more frequently than print.

**METHODS**

**survey**

- Purpose: Understand faculty perspective:
  - Continued interest in selecting
  - Perceptions on continuing need for books
  - Book format preferences
  - Understanding of purchasing options
  - Satisfaction with purchasing procedures
- Demographics:
  - 90 faculty participated, representing 29.8% of total faculty; well-represented across faculty status & years at Muhlenberg.

**DATA COLLECTION**

- September 2015 - January 2016
- FEB - APR '16
- APR - MAY '16
- JUN - AUG '16
- SEPT '16
- SPRING '17

**APPLICATION TO PRACTICE**

- Established a separate book allocation for interdisciplinary programs.
- Reduced the percentage allocated to faculty from the library’s book budget.
- Modified our communication plan.
- Distributed collection development information to all faculty rather than only liaisons.
- Revised the factors used in the book allocation formula.
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**FINDINGS**

- **faculty participation in collection development**
  - Most respondents want to be involved in collection development.
  - 71% strongly agree
  - 22% agree
- Respondents agree that allocated funds are important.
  - 55% strongly agree
  - 33% agree
- Majority of respondents are satisfied with funds available, but improvements needed.
  - 65% satisfied

- **processes for requesting materials**
  - Most respondents are “very” or “somewhat” satisfied with ways to recommend purchases of books, journals, & audiovisual items.
  - 52% very
  - 35% somewhat
- Respondents prefer print books for personal use overall.
  - 57% print
  - 25% ebook
  - 23% no preference
- Respondents prefer print books for long-form use and ebooks for short-form use.

- **preferences for print vs. electronic books**
  - Respondents prefer print books for personal use overall.
  - 57% print
  - 25% ebook
  - 23% no preference
- Respondents prefer print books for long-form use and ebooks for short-form use.

- **discussion groups**
  - **Faculty Requests for Print/ Librarians Select More Ebooks**
  - **Faculty Use of Allocated Book Funds Has Significantly Declined**
  - **Number of Faculty participating in selection has increased despite reduced overall spending across all 4 year periods.**
  - **Faculty Use of Allocated Book Funds Has Significantly Declined**

**QUESTIONs**

- **Alternatives to setting allocation amounts & spending?**
  - I would be interested in sometimes buying ebooks.
  - Don’t remove the departmental liaison role; the liaisons motivate faculty participation.
  - Area of study should be the organizing principle, not departments.
  - Interdisciplinary program liaisons would like more autonomy in these or other ways to streamlining the process.

- **What do you think of the book allocation formula?**
  - I didn’t know I could request ebooks.
  - I would be interested in sometimes buying ebooks.
  - It would be nice if there was a mechanism to indicate preference when submitting requests.

**FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT**

In spring 2017, we will assess the impact of and satisfaction with the modifications.
- **Stable/increased faculty participation?**
  - Burnout, overload may be impacting lower spending, not lack of interest.
  - Spending needs vary from year to year. If reduced, would there be a way to incorporate more flexibility for peak years?
- **Increased purchase requests from faculty?**
  - Don’t remove the departmental liaison role; the liaisons motivate faculty participation.
- **Interdisciplinary program liaisons would like more autonomy in order to reduce confusion and streamline the process.**
  - Departmental level is appropriate – motivates participation.
  - Area of study should be the organizing principle, not departments.