Profile-Hilary Davis
our public journal and database lists. We are experimenting with the EBSCO’s usage module, EBSCONET Usage Consolidation, to see if it can help us automate the harvesting and analysis of usage statistics (e.g., using Sushi) and if it can help efficiently calculate cost-per-use. We are in early stages of our testing. See Figure 1.

Collection Views

Collection Views is a novel system to demonstrate the value of the collection for specific user communities at NCSU (e.g., academic departments and colleges) and to conduct internal allocation assessments using library collections data (e.g., journals and monographs expenditures) and community data (e.g., number of faculty in a given department, grant dollars awarded). It has also been employed in successful advocacy efforts on campus for collections funding. The aim of Collection Views is to help us understand how our expenditures on resources relate to different departments and colleges at NCSU. To do this, we mapped departments and colleges to subject codes associated with collection purchases. By providing interactive visualizations within Collection Views, this tool helps us bring together previously disparate data to better understand and assess our collecting priorities for each campus group.

SAS (Statistical Analysis Software)

In 2010, the collection management department began utilizing SAS programming and analysis to support collection assessment projects. SAS is a valuable tool because it allows us to slice and dice large amounts of data quickly. For example, one project used SAS Project Management to analyze a twelve-year series of print items and examined the correlation between an item’s years in the collection and its circulation status. (John Vickery’s Print Item Usage Analysis: http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/collectionmanagement/projects/print-item-usage-analysis/).

Figure 1: Screenshot of statistics display in E-matrix

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Currently, I am Associate Head of Collection Management at the North Carolina State University Libraries. My primary role is to work with faculty, students, and researchers in the physical sciences, and I lead the department’s data analysis efforts for collection assessment. In 2008, I was named one of Library Journal’s “Movers and Shakers.” I hold an MLS from University of Missouri-Columbia and an MS in Biology from University of Missouri-St. Louis.

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Use Cases

Checking Our Assumptions and Fitting the Collection to Campus Needs

As previously described, Collection Views was built specifically to blend library data with campus data (Figure 2). By combining these data sources, we are better able to assess how our collection funds support different departments and disciplines on campus.

The visualizations bring the data to our fingertips so that we can see, for example, that our allocations for one department may be out of line with the number of graduate students and grant-funded projects of that department. Conversely, we may find that we are over-allocating library funds to a research program that may no longer be a priority for the University (e.g., evident by a decrease in enrolled graduate students or reduced grant funds). Looking at the data in this way prompts us to continually assess how our collection funds are allocated, and it enables us to maintain an appropriate balance in line with campus demographics and strengths (Figure 3). We have used this confluence of data in seeking budget increases from the University for resources that are vital to current research.

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