Against the Grain

2016

Emily Billings Profile

from the previous year as a starting point, a sub-set of the ABCD group investigates ways to enhance the resources supporting research in the targeted disciplines. Given the large amounts of money, title-by-title procurement is not feasible; instead, the guiding principle is to identify purchases that provided access to many resources at a single pass. The ABCD group reviews and discusses the final recommendations for each enhancement purchase.

Preparing for the Inevitable Drought

Endangered Species — The Endangered Species list was created to monitor our ongoing subscriptions using the criterion created during the budget crisis. These resources, as well as those newly added to our collection, are given three years, during which time the liaison librarians promote or review the resource. The ongoing and open nature of the list offers our liaisons ample opportunities for feedback and awareness not previously provided. The analysis gives us valid reasons for cutting a product and using the money in other, more productive ways.

Open Access — Beyond the current methods outlined above, we must prepare for a lack of funding. Including high-quality, librarian-evaluated Open Access materials in our library catalog is one method of preparing for the future. However, simply pointing a patron to an Open Access resource may not be enough. We are exploring ways to harvest and archive a local copy of Open Access resources through collaboration with our Digital Library. Furthermore, our current budget allows us to support Open Access Initiatives, such as Knowledge Unlatched or Independent Voices, providing current and future access to scholarly materials and ensuring the future of our collection.

Parting Thoughts

As we approach our uncertain future with funding for collection development, our decisions become more important in providing access to quality resources that are in demand now. Cost for materials and demand for items increases every year, but with strategic growth and detailed plans, we are able to transition and remain relevant to our users. We were fortunate to gain a temporary infusion of funding. With these funds the ABCD group, DDA, and targeted subject area enhancements will prepare us for the possible drought. The continued detailed monitoring and analysis of our electronic resource subscriptions and the addition of open access resources will take the collection in new directions.

References

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people profile

Emily Billings

Electronic Resources Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries
1155 Union Circle, #305190, Denton, TX 76203
Phone: (940) 565-3956 • <Emily.Billings@unt.edu>

BORN AND LIVED: I was born in Mount Vernon, TX and have lived all my life in the East Texas area.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: While I pursued my undergraduate degree in English, I received a job in the university library. I LOVED working there so much I decided to become a librarian. My first professional position was as a Public Services Librarian at a community college. I have participated in the **Association of College and Research Libraries**, Immersion program teacher track as well as the **Texas Library Association**, TALL Texans leadership program.

FAMILY: I am very close with my two younger sisters and parents.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I spend a lot of time knitting and reading fiction. I volunteer with the SPCA, the Junior League, and the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I enjoy reading romance or science fiction novels. I have read *Frankenstein* by **Mary Shelley** numerous times.

HOW/WHERE I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see the industry improving and expanding on the evaluation of electronic resources especially in the areas of accessibility and usability.

You Want to Do What?: Graphic Novels in an Academic Library

by **Christi Piper** (Instruction Librarian, University of Colorado Colorado Springs' Kraemer Family Library) <cpiper@uccs.edu>

and **Joel Tonyan** (Systems and User Experience Librarian, University of Colorado Colorado Springs' Kraemer Family Library) <jtonyan@uccs.edu>

and **Emilie Vrbancic** (Undergraduate Experience Librarian, University of Washington's Odegaard Library) <vrbancic@uw.edu>

In the spring of 2015, a series of coincidental events took place at the **Kraemer Family Library** at the **University of Colorado Colorado Springs**: we had a faculty member approach the librarians with a request for us to be involved in the annual **Denver ComicCon** and noticed that more faculty on campus were using graphic novels in their classrooms. This led a group of librarians to question whether the library was truly meeting the graphic novel needs of the campus. Specifically, we wondered if more students than we were aware of were interested in graphic novels and if the demand was being met. In order to explore that question, we designed a student feedback survey and began to reach out to faculty already integrating pop culture materials into their curriculum.

We focused our survey efforts on reaching a wide-range of students to gauge interest in graphic novels and to try to understand the level of awareness of the library's collection. The results were eye opening. Of the 459 students who completed the survey, over 57% responded that they read graphic novels, but 74% of the same population did not know that the library had a collection of graphic novels. This lack of student knowledge about the collection prompted an investigation of how well our current graphic novels collection was, or was not, circulating. When the circulation statistics were run, we found that 58% of the 230 titles had been checked out at least once in the past year. We also found that there had been over 150 consortium requests for graphic novels to be brought in from other libraries. Some people were obviously finding the collection and it was getting good use, but we were not keeping up with the demand for more and newer titles, as in that same year only 22 new volumes were added to the collection.