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People Profile: Michelle Flinchbaugh

Editor

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Consortial Circulation ...  
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patrons are continuing to request a growing number of articles through ILL. Because of the consortial agreements no fees are charged for ILL service between the USM/UMBC libraries, and we all search our consortial partners holdings first. By searching catalogusmll.ill.umd.edu, one can quickly discover the paper and online holdings of others in the system, including the specialized databases, microform materials, and electronic resources accordingly. At UMBC alone, over the past eight fiscal years, an average of 41% of total article borrowing requests filled came from within the USM. UMBC provided an average of 30% of total article requests filled to other USM libraries.

The University System of Maryland ILL Group (USMILL), with representatives from each of the campuses, works together to resolve problems as well as provide the best service to our patrons. The Group created a rush fax form that was used between the USM campuses when a rush was absolutely necessary, and before the OCLC request was even sent. They also lobbied the Council of Library Directors (CLD) to fund Cyberstat software and workstations for all the USM libraries so that everyone could provide the same level of service to our patrons and each other. Not all campuses were able to afford Ariel at the time, but most now have it. In addition, the USMILL group requested that CLD fund the purchase of CLIO software for all campuses so that our record keeping, and reporting of statistics to the Directors, would be compatible. By purchasing CLIO consortially the USM was given a discounted price which made it all the more affordable. On a yearly basis the USM ILL offices now share statistics which project a more complete and accurate picture of ILL borrowing and lending between the campuses.

Impact on Collection Development
Patron Placed Holds were originally implemented to increase resource sharing and make departmental book budgets go further. In theory, each library should be purchasing fewer items that duplicate other USM/UMBC library collections. However, there is no consortial agreement regarding collection development, so various USM/UMBC libraries have very different policies regarding the duplication of other libraries’ collections. Some libraries do not consider other libraries’ holdings at all when making purchasing decisions, while others might have policies against purchasing any title owned by another USM/UMBC library, while yet other libraries might have a policy against purchasing any title owned by two or more other libraries in the consortium. At UMBC we have thought that selectors should be purchasing fewer items that duplicate other USM/UMBC collections, and that the uniqueness of UMBC’s collections should be increasing.

In practice, selectors seem to request just as many items that are owned by other USM/UMBC institutions, despite collection development policies geared toward assisting selectors in reducing that duplication. Both online and book order forms contain an area where selectors may indicate whether they still want an item to be purchased even if it is already owned by another USM/UMBC library. Consistently, selectors indicate on orders that they want the item whether it’s owned by another USM/UMBC library or not, displaying little concern for cooperative collection development. In Fiscal Year 2002, for example, out of 9,778 books requested, only 314 orders, three percent, indicated...