Working Titles: A Study of Labor Collections at Selected Milwaukee and Madison Area Libraries

Emma Molls, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Kadie Seitz, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Working Titles:

A Study of Labor Collections at Selected Milwaukee and Madison Area Libraries

Emma Molls & Kadie Seitz
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
School of Information Studies
Project Background
Project Background

MLWCH 2013 UWM
Graduate Student Colloquium

“Size of Thoughts”
Riverwest Radio
Research Questions

Where do the labor information resources in Wisconsin’s urban centers reside?

What are the political implications of this?
Literature Review
Literature Review

Joseph M. Turrini

What internal and external factors have directed the development of labor collections? (2005)
Literature Review

James Quigel

“The marketing of higher education, the anti-union stance of some university administrations, and the transition of labor studies programs create a less-than-benign environment of labor collection development activities” (2005).
Seamus Scanlon

Scanlon compared the collections of New York and New Jersey area public and academic libraries (including NY Public Library and West Point Academy Library), discovering that the NYPL held the majority of titles, while West Point held the least.
Literature Review

Scanlon cont.

While noting that the lack of extensive collections on the Taliban may not necessarily indicate a lack in public interest, Scanlon notes that his finding “may indicate a low priority by collection development librarians in public libraries and in the libraries of academic and military colleges to develop a comprehensive collection of material on the Afghanistan and Iraq wars” (2011).
Methodology
Selection of Cities

Madison
Politicians and Policies

Milwaukee
Labor and Workers
Selection of Libraries

Public university

Private university

Public city library

Smaller technical college
Selection of Libraries

Public university
   Place of scholarship and theory
Private university
   Access for few
Public city library
   Access for all
Smaller technical college
   Produces laborers
Selection of Libraries

UW-Madison
Madison Public Library
MATC (Madison College)
Edgewood

UW-Milwaukee
Milwaukee Public Library
MATC
Marquette
Selection of LC Subject Headings

Collective Labor Agreements – United States
Labor Disputes – United States
Labor Movement – United States
Labor Movement – United States – History – 20th Century
Labor Unions – Organizing – United States
Collective Bargaining – United States
Data Gathering

Searched OPAC of each selected library

No parameters (language, year, format, etc.) used for any searches

Searched solely for selected subject headings
The UW-Madison Problem
Results
## Madison Holdings

Breakdown of # of titles under selected subject headings from four MADISON libraries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Heading</th>
<th>UW</th>
<th>MPL</th>
<th>MATC</th>
<th>Edgewood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collective Labor Agreements—United States</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Disputes—United States</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Movement—United States</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Movement—United States—History 20th Century</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Unions—Organizing—United States</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collective Bargaining—United States</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Breakdown of # of titles under selected subject headings from four MILWAUKEE libraries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Heading</th>
<th>UWM</th>
<th>MPL</th>
<th>MATC</th>
<th>Marquette</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collective Labor Agreements—United States</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Disputes—United States</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Movement—United States</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Movement—United States—History 20th Century</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Unions—Organizing—United States</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collective Bargaining—United States</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Holdings

Holdings of Madison institutions: 941
Holdings of Milwaukee institutions: 1,218
Questions Raised
How much access does the public have to labor information and sources?
How well does the location of resources reflect targeted populations?
How can information professional design tools to better aid researchers?
Total Holdings

Holdings of Madison institutions: 941

Holdings of Milwaukee institutions: 1,218
Political Implications
PLEASE, DO NOT SHOOSH ME.
LIBRARIANS WILL NOT BE SILENCED!
LIBRARIAN NOT USING HER LIBRARY VOICE

WE WILL NOT TOLERATE KOCH HEAD'S IN WISCONSIN
LIBRARIANS 4 LABOR!
DON'T BE QUIET!!!
Total Holdings

Holdings of Madison institutions: 941

Holdings of Milwaukee institutions: 1,218
Where to go next?


Questions?

SOLIDARITY
STAND WITH WISCONSIN