Tracking Online Document Usage from the Catalog: Experiences from the Field: The San José State experience

Susan L. Kendall, San Jose State University
Tracking Online Document Usage from the Catalog: Experiences from the Field

The San José State experience – Susan Kendall, SJSU

Traditional Ways of Tracking Print Materials

• Circulation Records

• In house shelving counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIALS</th>
<th>IN-HOUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When developing the tracking program for e-govpubs, we wanted:

- Easy to use & understand
- The ability to sort by:
  - SuDocs Number
  - Alphabetic Title
  - Highest Number of Hits
- The ability to run reports by month and also by year

Currently, a monthly run is generated
The yearly chart helped show the impact of e-govpubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Hits</td>
<td>6914</td>
<td>9750</td>
<td>8738</td>
<td>10187</td>
<td>8657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 2009 includes January - August
What e-govpubs were most requested?

High Hits were indicative of

- Class assignments – Justice Studies & Social Work students have been increasing users of our egovpubs

- As to the NASA increased use – not only do we have an Aerospace Engineering program but our Science librarian pointed out that this year SJSU is actively participating in IYA and that NASA is a major supporter of IYA.
IYA?

Do e-govpubs “circulate” more than print?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-govpubs</td>
<td>6,914</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>8,738</td>
<td>10,107</td>
<td>8,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print GovPubs</td>
<td>2,787</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>2,221</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 2009: January – August figures
Our general book circulation at SJSU is also decreasing

This is similar to reports on circulation usage statistics nationwide. See: Anderson, Rick “Collection Development 2.0: Rethinking Library Collections in a Radically changed Information Environment.” ALA http://presentations.ala.org/index.php?title=Collection_Development_2.0

Benefits of the e-govpubs stats

• Training
  – Internal – focus professional development on most used areas
  – External – offer workshops for the community based on requested materials
Benefits of the e-govpubs stats

• Alert librarians to class assignments

• Opportunity for displays and other outreach activities

• Opportunity to review selection options

Benefits of the e-govpubs stats

– The online catalog is a great resource for finding electronic government publications

– Shows the ongoing need for multiple sources to find complex documents
References

For more detailed discussion on SJSU’s usage statistics, please see:

Simultaneously printed in:
Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press

Circulation statistics:

Anderson, Rick “Collection Development 2.0: Rethinking Library Collections in a Radically changed Information Environment.
ALA
http://presentations.ala.org/index.php?title=Collection_Development_2.0

My thanks to:

The SJSU team
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Shirley Hwang - April Gilbert
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Thank you!

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