Collection Development

Geoscience Librarianship
Geoscience Information Society (GSIS)
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A bit about myself...

- Undergrad: Environmental Geology, minor Archaeology
- Archeologist, Asbestos Analyst, IRS Tax Examiner
- Public Libraries & AMNH & CUNY BMCC, positions focused on Collections, Reference & Instruction
- Columbia University
- Geology/Geosciences Librarian (Psychology & Biology)
- Head of Collection Management for Sci & SESSL
- Interim Director of Collection Development & E-resources
- Director of the Science, Engineering & Social Sciences Libraries (+ Liaison to Earth & Environmental Sciences)

(Birdwatching, Travel, Jewelry making, Photography)
Poll #1:
Who is a liaison or selects material in the geosciences?

Other areas?
Which Ones?
Subjects in the Geosciences

- Interdisciplinary in nature
- Geosciences broad in scope: earth sciences, climate, geology, geophysics, geochemistry, mineralogy, paleontology, seismology, etc.
- Geoscientists need access to a wide range of resources: Biology, Ecology, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Math, etc.
- Regional needs & special emphases & departmental strengths, interests
What is it?

- Maintains a record
- Defines Intent (user populations, strengths)
- Communicates
  - Resource allocations, growth
  - Policies on access, selection, gifts, and weeding
  - Institution, administration & user priorities and expectations

Tip: Best if kept up to date & available for review
Parts of a Collection Development Policy:

1. **History and Overview of the Collection**

2. **Academic Departments and Programs Supported**
   a) Undergraduate
   b) Graduate & Professional Schools
   c) Institutes, Interdisciplinary Programs, etc.
   d) Course Reserves

3. **Selection Guidelines**
   a) Print
   b) Digital Collections
   c) Media
   d) Languages Collected
   e) Chronological Focus
   f) Geographical Focus
   g) Imprint Dates Collected

4. **Distinctive & Special Collections**

5. **Collection Strategies**
   a) Consortia and Collaborative Collecting with Other Institutions
   b) Selection for Offsite
   c) Deaccessioning
   d) Digitization & Preservation

6. **Contact Information**

7. **Related Subject Policies & Collections**
Parts of a Collection Development Policy:

https://library.columbia.edu/about/policies/collection-development-policies-strategies.html

https://library.columbia.edu/about/policies/collection-development-policies-strategies/subject/earth_environmental_sciences.html
What DOES your Library have?

Know what you have to work with

- Budget? 💲💲💲

- Contracts/Commitments & Consortial deals,

- Assessing the collection:
  - Browse the stacks (digital, offsite)
  - Subject coverage, department needs
  - Unique strengths
  - Overlap/crossover with other collections in library?

- Review your approval plan/profile
- Collection Analysis tools
Poll #2:
What Collection Development Issue do you find most challenging?

• Budget/Costs
• Assessment/Analysis
• Keeping Collection Relevant/up to date
• Time
• Other
Cost of Geoscience Literature

- Varies widely: from Free - $$$
- Exchanges - subscriptions
- Falls under STEM literature - moderately expensive... as far as science goes
- Strong not-for-profit publishers
  - Societies, government agencies, foreign publications
Sources for Publications:

- Commercial publishers (Wiley, Elsevier, Springer, Cambridge... to name a few)
- Government agencies (USGS)
- Societies (GSA, The Geological Society, AGU, etc.)
- Open Access publications; Repositories
Tip: Turn away stats- see what users are trying to access but never purchased or subscribed

TIP: Don’t forget about: Inter Library Loan; usually easy and convenient for users; you don’t have to buy everything
Geosciences materials generally have a long shelf life

Communicate with Stakeholders

Discards:
- Exchange networks, GeoNet, donations, Better World Books
- Book Sales
- Recycle

Be aware: Institutional policies, state regulations
Management & Access issues:
- Costs & contracts
- Managing access
- Technological problems
- Physical formats for digital storage
- Digital preservation (LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, Internet Archive, Hathi Trust, Repositories, Digital Libraries)

Impacts:
- Space, services, technology
- Users - training, communication
- Marketing - posters, newsletters, emails, blog posts, vendor swag
Collection Assessment

Why?
- Ensure value of subscriptions, purchases, use
- Negotiation tool
- Cancelation decisions

How?
- Use, statistics (COUNTER); Cost per use calculations
- Turn away stats
- Overlap analysis (e-journals) (Intota Assessment)
- **USUS**

Red Flags:
- ✦ Higher than average price increases
- ✦ High cost per use (compare to similar resources)
- ✦ Decreasing usage, high % unused titles
## E-book subscription assessment example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Subscription A</th>
<th>Subscription B</th>
<th>Subscription C</th>
<th>Subscription D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013 Cost</strong></td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of titles</strong></td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of titles loaned</strong></td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of loans</strong></td>
<td>2,500,00</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of titles without use after purchase</strong></td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average cost of e-book</strong></td>
<td>$0.60</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost per use</strong></td>
<td>$0.20</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This analysis was conducted using confidential cost data. The numbers above were recalculated to reflect findings.*
Other Publications & Access

- Federal Documents (USGS + other agencies)
- Geological Survey Docs (Governments, States)
- Professional society publications
- Field Trip Guidebooks
- Maps, data sets, other sources...
Other Publications & Access

In-house Publications:
- Theses/Dissertations
- Digital field records, data sets, images
- Technical Series, Reports
- Newsletters
- Yearbooks, Annual reports

Partners: archives, repository
- Access, Metadata
Does anyone Archive PDFs or Websites that may be ephemeral?

Warning: Shameless plug ahead

**Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks Web Archive**

*Collected by: Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation*

* Archived since: Jul, 2019*

*Description: The Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Web Archive is an initiative developed by librarians at Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, and Princeton University, under the auspices of the Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation. The collection is curated by Amanda Bielskas (Columbia), Brittany Wofford (Duke), Jane Quigley (Dartmouth), and Emily Wild (Princeton). The project aims to preserve web-based geoscience field trip guidebooks — which document local geologic information and are often ephemeral, and only available for a short time — found in the Geologic Guidebooks of North America Database for researchers and scholars within the Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation and beyond. To nominate a Guidebook for inclusion in this collection, please fill out the following form: https://forms.gle/nVDRWRs5LRWst5SC8.*

*Subject: Science & Health, Geology*

*Creator: Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation*
The Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks Web Archive was created to preserve web-based guidebooks which are often ephemeral.

Web Archiving
- Web archiving is the process of creating and storing copies (or snapshots) of live websites to ensure that they are preserved and remain publicly accessible for future use and can also be used to show how the websites have evolved over time.

About
- The Web Archive is free and available for researchers and scholars to use, and is available and archived through the Internet Archive (https://archive.org/).
- Online Guidebooks document local geologic information, and are often ephemeral.

Nominate a Guidebook
- Nominate a guidebook for inclusion in the Archive, via the right QR code.
Sustainability
- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Fiscally responsible
- Aligns with mission

Collaborations (do more together)

Openness & Transparency
- Open & equitable access | Open Access = Expanded Access
- Supporting open source solutions
- Values based decisions

Diversity & Inclusion should be imbedded within everything we do: Staffing, Collection, Services
Continuing Education

- Take classes, read, go on a field trip
- Talk to users: Students, Researchers & Faculty
- Talk to your Colleagues
  - Within institution & external peers
- GSIS & GeoNet are great!
Geoscience Collection Development

Discussion/Questions:

- How do you keep your collections current & relevant?
- Diversifying Collections in the Sciences?
- Anyone doing systematic collection assessment?
- Collaborative Collection Development?
- Other Topics/Questions?
Thank You

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