How to Build a Collection Without a Budget

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Background
About ISTC

- Staff of about 40
- Technical assistance program
  - Engineers
  - Outreach/public information
  - Librarian
- ARIES program
  - Laboratory/research chemists and engineers
  - Sponsored research program
- Unit of UIUC Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability
  - ISTC staff are academic professional employees of UIUC
ISTC Research Interests

- Energy efficiency
- Biofuels/biolubricants
  - Alternative feedstocks
  - Uses for byproducts (e.g. glycerol)
- Environmental chemistry
  - Emerging contaminants
  - Pharmaceuticals and personal care products in the environment
- Industrial process engineering
  - Making manufacturing processes more green
  - Water/energy use in manufacturing
- Sustainable electronics
  - E-waste
  - Sustainable design
- Green business/organizations
About the ISTC Library

- Staff of one professional and one student worker
- Merging collections with the State Water Survey Library and the Natural History Survey Library to form INRS Library
- No collections budget for the last two fiscal years
  - Unlikely to see much money in the near future
- No new items added to physical collection in last two years
- Sounds like a disaster, doesn’t it?
Why This Isn’t as Bad as It Sounds
Research Library & Subject Expertise

- UIUC has one of the largest research libraries in the U.S.
- Participates in I-Share
  - Access to collections of academic libraries statewide
- Offers campus mail delivery to faculty and staff
- Excellent online journal resources
  - Most ISTC staff rely heavily on journal literature
- Excellent online database resources
  - Scopus
  - Web of Science
  - SciFinder
- Determined librarian with subject expertise, a computer, and an Internet connection
What You Can Do If You’re Not on the Campus of a Major Research Institution
Use the Internet

- Documents are born digital
  - Most federal documents
  - Many state documents
  - Many not-for-profit organizations

- There are tools to help you locate these documents
  - DocuTicker
  - ResourceShelf
  - RFF Library Blog
  - GreenBiz.com
  - Google alerts
  - Social networking sites (Twitter, Facebook)
Virtual Collections

- Build subject guides with links to online documents
  - LibGuides
  - GLRPPR Sector Resources
  - ISTC Reference Guides
- Build bibliographies of research articles on relevant topics
  - Refworks/RefShare
  - Mendeley (free!)
  - CiteuLike
- Contribute to OCLC WorldCat if your budget allows
  - Nearly half of ISTC’s collection is held by three or fewer libraries nationwide
Building Scholarly Bibliographies

Tools like Mendeley allow you to quickly and easily create topical collections of research material for your users. Make sure you comply with copyright.
LibGuides as a Virtual Collection Repository

You can build virtual collections using LibGuides, a home-grown website, or Word documents. All you need is a topic and links to online resources.
Cooperative Collection Development with Social Bookmarking

Cooperative tagging using a common word or phrase is an excellent way to share relevant content with your users and other librarians. Search for tags to uncover new resources that you can add to your collection.
It takes a subject expert to build a collection