How to Build a Collection Without a Budget

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Background
About the Prairie Research Institute and ISTC

- **Prairie Research Institute**
  - Joined University in 2009

- **Illinois Sustainable Technology Center**
  - Staff of about 40 (including hourlies)
  - Emerging Technologies and Assistance program (ETAP)
    - Engineers
    - Outreach/public information
    - Librarian has dotted line reporting relationship to program
  - Applied Research on Industrial Environmental Systems (ARIES) program
    - Laboratory/research chemists and engineers
  - Sponsored research program
    - Funds research projects, organizes Center’s Sustainability Seminar series
ISTC Research Interests

• Energy efficiency
• Biofuels/biolubricants
  – Alternative feedstocks (currently waste plastics)
  – Uses for byproducts (e.g. glycerol)
• Biochar as a soil amendment
• 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/home
About the Institute Library

• Library formed from merger of INHS, ISWS, ISGS, and ISTC libraries
  – Collections are in the process of being moved to one physical location (former INHS Library)
  – Each librarian has a liaison relationship with at least one Institute unit
  – ISTC, ISGS librarians work at Institute Library reference desk 8 hours/week. Remainder of time is spent in liaison unit.

• Staff of four professionals, two student workers, and two academic hourlies
  – One hourly spends 75% of her time processing the ISTC collection to move
  – Student workers and other hourly assigned to Institute Library

• Merging collections with the other former state survey libraries to form Prairie Research Institute Library
  – ISTC, ISWS, and some ISGS Library holdings are currently available in Voyager (INHS collection has always been part of UIUC online catalog)
  – Physical collection is in the process of moving, one bin at a time

• No collections budget
  – INHS liaison has money from UIUC Library for purchase of natural history materials
  – Institute Library has no formal budget

• No new items added to physical collection for ISTC staff in last four 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
  – GLRPPR Sector Resources Items Recently Added feed
  – ResourceShelf
  – RFF Library Blog
  – DOE Information Bridge
    • Topical search alerts
  – 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
  – More than 75% of ISTC’s collection was unique to CARLI when OCLC holdings were added to UIUC online catalog
  – Existing cataloging backlog consists of many items not in OCLC
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 web site, or Word documents. All you need is a topic and links to online resources.
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.
**Build Your Own Portal**

**CWIS** is open source software developed by the Internet Scout Project in support of the National Science Digital Library initiative. It conforms to international and academic metadata standards (i.e. Dublin core). You can also build your own database driven web site.
It takes a subject expert to build a collection.