Building Research Collections in the Area Studies to Serve Nation-wide Populations

Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge - 2014

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Forthcoming Article....

- *College and Research Libraries* (May 2015)

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Goals

- Examine the relationship between less commonly taught language collections (LCTL) and ILL services by reviewing multiple years of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s resource sharing data.
- Develop a narrative of collection development in the Area Studies broadly and, locally, the reference services and outreach initiatives that strengthen resource sharing among academic libraries.
- Conclude by examining the feasibility of aggregating, or concentrating, collections of difficult to acquire, low use materials at institutions that can provide service at a regional and/or national level.
Services and Collections at Illinois

From the Million Volume Library with about forty public service units....

...to the 14-million volume Library with about twenty units and an aggressive resource-sharing commitment.
Toward a National Collection for International and Area Studies

- **1930s – 1950s – Promoting Peace & Understanding**
  - Foundation Funding – Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Ford
  - Farmington Plan (Carnegie Supported)

- **The Cold War – Educating for Defense**
  - National Defense Education Education Act (NDEA) of 1958
  - PL-480 (1958)

- **Post-Cold War – Muddling Through**
  - Soft or Diminishing Financial Support
  - "Ubiquitous Access" changing expectations
Assessing the Impact of a “National Collection”

• Five Primary Questions Investigated:
  – Is the impact of these collections constrained by geographic proximity and/or consortial arrangements?
  – Does a deeper, centrally held collection of Less Commonly Taught Language materials serve the broad academic community?
  – Beyond the academic community, who else benefits from LCTL materials collections? How does this compare with academic usage?
  – Can the breadth of usage justify longstanding institutional and governmental financial commitments?
  – How does a robust service component affect the ILL lending of LCTL materials?
LCTL Borrowing by Region - 2011

Regional LCTL Lending w/ Illinois
- South: 56.12%
- North Eastern US: 16.82%
- Western US: 14.88%
- Midwestern US: 12.18%

Regional LCTL Lending w/o Illinois
- South: 44.31%
- North Eastern US: 21.35%
- Western US: 18.88%
- Midwestern US: 15.46%

Census Regions and Divisions of the United States
## LCTL Borrowing 2007 - 2011

Regional Totals (excluding Illinois)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>LCTL Lending</th>
<th>Total Lending</th>
<th>% of Regional Borrowing of LCTL Materials</th>
<th>Regional % LCTL Borrowing</th>
<th>% of Total Borrowing to Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern US</td>
<td>3,760</td>
<td>23,515</td>
<td>15.99%</td>
<td>23.88%</td>
<td>19.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern US</td>
<td>3,063</td>
<td>20,754</td>
<td>14.76%</td>
<td>19.45%</td>
<td>17.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western US</td>
<td>2,750</td>
<td>15,490</td>
<td>17.75%</td>
<td>17.46%</td>
<td>13.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwestern US</td>
<td>6,174</td>
<td>59,296</td>
<td>10.41%</td>
<td>39.21%</td>
<td>49.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,747</strong></td>
<td><strong>119,055</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Borrowing Institutions - LCTL Holdings - 2011

- Academic
- Art Music History
- Association/Foundation
- Corporate
- Federal/National
- Law Library
- Junior, Community, Tech College
- Law Library
- Major Academic Research
- Medical
- Other
- Public
- Schools Below College Level
- State Library
- State or Municipal Government
- Theological
- State or Municipal Government
- State Library
- Schools Below College Level
- Public
- Other
- Medical
- Major Academic Research
- Law Library
- Junior, Community, Tech College
- Federal/National
- Corporate
- Association/Foundation
- Art Music History
- Academic

% of LCTL Lending by Inst Type
% of total Loaned
Does Aggregation Influence Borrowing?

**TABLE 4**

LCTL Collections by Region, Collection Size, and ILL Lending (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region*</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Lending</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Languages</td>
<td>5,840</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asian</td>
<td>182,256</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>2.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asian</td>
<td>99,798</td>
<td>1.34%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern</td>
<td>57,761</td>
<td>0.77%</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavic, East Europe, Eurasian</td>
<td>418,399</td>
<td>5.61%</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>4.84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Regional collection totals reflect titles and exclude volumes and materials published in non-LCTL languages. Latin America and the Caribbean were excluded because of the inability to disaggregate within the dataset European and Latin American imprints for Portuguese titles.
Do Services Influence Borrowing? 
The Slavic Reference Service and Our Collections
Where next?

• Beyond the pending paper, or how do we get beyond the “yes, but...” phase of the conversation?
Could the Frameworks for Print Consolidation Management be Applied to Collection Development?

Figure 1. A framework for print collection consolidation

History of Over-Acquisition

• Three categories of monographic acquisitions
  – High numbers; high use
  – Low numbers; low use
  – Medium numbers; low use…. 

• Can the middling middle support a longer tail?
1984…

- the “development of a plan and a strategy for reducing collection redundancy and increasing inter-collection sharing of resources.”