

New Brunswick Collections Group Final Report 2011

Submitted by Ryan Womack, NBCG Chair, July 29, 2011

Goals for the year were established at our August meeting. These goals have constituted the major work of the group during this academic year. The goals, indicators, outcomes, and their associated strategic plan categories are described below. A final section describes additional agenda items and activities of NBCG for the year.

GOALS

Allocate funds and monitor NB budget (Ongoing)

- Chair (Ryan Womack) and subgroup chairs (Kayo Denda, Humanities; Rebecca Gardner, Sciences; Karen Hartman, Social Sciences; Triveni Kuchi, Reference) met in September to plan allocations. All NB allocations were completed by the end of October, significantly earlier than past norms. Chair and subgroup chairs have monitored spending and reminded selectors about spending, including sending alerts to selectors with funds with high free balances.
- Goal IV.D. – Allocate resources based on the strategic directions of the five-year plan.
- Outcome: funds were entered into Workflows, periodic reports on spending were generated.
- Indicator: Our first indicator was been met. Last year there were 150 funds with free balances greater than 20% (excluding transfer funds). As of May, there were only 95 funds with free balances greater than 20%. Free balances were \$292,736.38 in May, of which only \$218,810.29 were in funds for discretionary spending (excluding approval and transfers). This is a significant reduction from last year, but more progress could be made in the future.

Weeding and Space Priorities (also an LRC goal)

- Our initial goal of prioritizing weeding expanded to include a discussion of space issues across the libraries when it became clear that these issues were closely related for many libraries.
- Goal II.C. – Organize print library collections to respond to efficient delivery services and reciprocal borrowing opportunities.
- Outcome: The December NBCG meeting was primarily devoted to an extensive discussion of weeding and space needs in all of the NB campus libraries. The minutes of that meeting describe the priorities for each library.
- Indicator: Rather than creating a priority list as initially projected, NBCG determined that a team approach would be better suited to the ongoing nature of these issues. Microforms and Periodicals teams have been formed with representation from each of the major libraries so that ongoing consultation on weeding can proceed with Distributed Technical Services.

Getting Books to the Shelves More Quickly

- The November NBCG meeting featured a presentation by Mary Beth Weber and Fay Austin on the steps that are being taken in Acquisitions to reduce backlogs and process

books more quickly. In addition, discussions on difficulties with foreign language orders led to special meetings between acquisitions staff and foreign language selectors. During the staff transitions occurring this spring in Acquisitions, this information and process sharing is an important step to keep orders flowing smoothly.

- Goal I.B. Adopt of develop tools that provide easy, seamless, reliable, and convenient access to both online and traditional scholarly resources, wherever they are located, such as cross-database searching, link resolvers, and citation software.
- Outcome: These discussions and presentations provided useful information to selectors, and provided a shared basis for understanding, which will be especially important as acquisitions staff changes in the coming months.
- Indicator: Acquisitions provided a report at the May meeting that documented the backlog reduction.

Analyze and Advocate for Monograph Funding

- Taking action on the recommendation of the Approval Plan Task Force chaired by Tom Izbicki, NBCG reduced coverage of the approval plan by limiting several high volume commercial publishers, and blocked a large number of small university presses. These changes will cut approval spending by roughly \$100,000 to a level of \$300,000 annually. This comes at a cost of losing coverage of about 2,800 titles. This step is necessary to avoid the continued erosion of the principal of the Van Wagoner fund. NBCG also allocated funds from discretionary NB endowments and phonothon funds to plug the gap in approval funding. Tom Izbicki allocated an additional \$100,000 from end of year money to cover approval expenditures. The net result is that this year, the Van Wagoner principal will only be reduced by \$107,000.
- Goal I.A. Expand the collections both electronic and in print to the level of our peer institutions.
- Outcome: Since the Van Wagoner fund is an exhaustible resource, NBCG has begun the process of advocating for other sources of monograph funding. Ryan Womack produced a report on the “Future of the Approval Plan” which describes the current situation and future possible outcomes. The report was reviewed and endorsed by NBCG, and has brought recognition that the problem of finding a sustainable source for monograph funding requires a solution.
- Indicator: The report has been widely circulated and presented and discussed at Library Resources Council, Cabinet, and the New Brunswick Faculty Council, who referred the issue to their Library Committee for a resolution.

Study Patron-Driven Acquisitions Model

- In January, Mei Ling Lo and Melissa De Fino presented the results to date of the patron-driven acquisitions pilot program for Math and Computer Science books.
- Goal I.G. Develop services that facilitate scholarly communication and support the research in process among researchers at Rutgers
- Outcome: This discussion provided important insights on the factors involved in patron-driven e-books, both from the technical services and the selectors perspective. These experiences will be useful as expanded patron-driven plans are undertaken.
- Indicator: The presentation did take place and generated lively discussion.

Role of Collection Development Librarians

- This goal meshed with the work of the Liaison Action Team led by Nancy Kranich, so Nancy was invited to lead a discussion with the group on this topic.
- Goal III. D. Leverage the liaison relationship to departments, centers, and institutes to understand and support the development of new research methodologies in the disciplines.
- Outcome: The February meeting of NBCG was centered on the discussion of liaison/collection development. Feedback from the group was reflected in the final work of the Liaison Action Team as presented at the State of the Libraries.
- Indicator: NBCG meetings reflected discussion of this issue.

Implement Liaison Database

- NBCG created a useable web-based database out of the information prepared by the Liaison Relationship Working Group last year.
- Goal III.C. Ensure that library liaisons effectively communicate information about library services, collections, and programs to university departments, centers, and institutes and share changes and developments in departments, centers, and institutes with the Libraries.
- Outcome: LRWG files were converted to MySQL database with PHP web interface
- Indicator: The prototype website is available at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~selectors.htm>. The data will be integrated into the Library's Who's Who database in the future.

Discuss Impact of E-books, especially with respect to ILL policies

- NBCG explored examples of e-book licenses to understand use restrictions and best practices in this area.
- Goal I.B. Adopt or develop tools that provide easy, seamless, reliable, and convenient access to both online and traditional scholarly resources, wherever they are located, such as cross-database searching, link resolvers, and citation software.
- Outcome: E-book licenses from major publishers were reviewed and discussed at an NBCG meeting
- Indicator: The May NBCG meeting was devoted to this discussion, and documents are available on the NBCG Sakai site.

Changes in Publishing

- NBCG discussed the impact of changes in the publishing industry on library services (consolidation, e-books, etc.) in order to understand the best ways to manage our collections.
- Goal I.A. Expand the collections both electronic and in print to the level of our peer institutions
- Outcome: Either a single presentation or ongoing discussion and updates at NBCG meetings focus on this topic
- Indicator: The April meeting of NBCG was devoted to discussion of this topic.

Additional Agenda Items

To address the consistent interest on the part of selectors in having more detailed information about our borrowing and lending, Judy Garder arranged for an Analysis of Interlibrary Loan Statistics by SCI student Ryan Nowlin. Ryan Nowlin presented his findings at the November meeting of NBCG, and Judy Garder later followed up on questions generated by that discussion. As a result of these discussions, Judy Gardner and the ILL department will generate regular reports on selected measures of ILL activity for distribution to the group.

Jane Sloan presented on the proposed relocation of the Cinema Studies print collections from Alexander Library to Douglass Library, in order to bring them together with media materials. This proposal was endorsed by NBCG.

Members also shared information about international programs, the secure data facility, Ruresearch and data management, and more.