What’s Mine is Yours: Collaborating To Protect Print Collections

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www.maineinfonet.org/mscs/
The breadth and scope of the US and Canadian collective print book collection are not derived from a subset of the largest local collections, but are instead obtained from the contributions of thousands of libraries all over the US and Canada.

Background on ME Libraries

- A tradition of collaboration
- A tradition of sharing
- A history of trust

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Background on MSCC

The Maine Shared Collections Cooperative is a shared print program, whose members have collectively committed to retaining approx. 1.5 million monographs for minimum of 15 years.

42 members, including 18 academic libraries and 24 public libraries.

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Lacking Public Library Participation in Shared Print

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Why a Public Library Would Participate?

- Unique public library holdings
- High circulation rates at public libraries
- Guilt-free weeding
THE LOBSTERMAN AND THE U.F.O.

NEAL PARKER

Tales of North Berwick
Or You Can't Get There From Here

Betty Kennedy Tufts

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Lending Patterns

2019 Bangor Public Library ILLs went to:

Public Libraries: 10,152 (51%)
Academic Libraries: 5,662 (29%)
State Library (& special): 3,909 (20%)

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN

ACADEMICS LOVE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTENT

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How a Public Library Participates in Shared Print

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Lots of Small Libraries
MSCC’s Collection Analysis Needs

GreenGlass

- Incorporate local holdings & usage data, combined with external data sources e.g. OCLC WorldCat
- Visually present the data in easy to interpret ways
- Incorporate detailed retention rules & allocation of retention responsibility across group
- Exclude categories of material considered not retention worthy

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Covering Costs of Analysis

- Not possible for smaller libraries to cover their full analysis costs
- Needed larger participants to subsidize costs—in particular, the Maine State Library made analysis affordable for publics
Importance of Resource Sharing Network

- All MSCC members part of state-wide union catalog (MaineCat) and associated resource sharing network
- Check commitments recorded in MaineCat when making withdrawal decisions
- Participants get seamless delivery = more easily rely on commitments at other libraries
Some Housekeeping Required

- Ideally, clean up data in advance (duplicate records, no ISBN, no OCLC #)
- Consider doing an inventory first
- Data entry: putting the retention commitment into the ILS item records
What does Participation in a Shared Print Program Look Like?
It takes a village of library staff to make for a successful shared print program:

- Collections
- Systems
- ILL
- Administrators
- Cataloguers
- Stacks Maintenance

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Importance of Project Management
## Collection Analysis Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kick-off Meetings with Libraries &amp; OCLC</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging and data questionnaires completed</td>
<td>February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparator libraries finalized and special category defined</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All bib and item data received from libraries</td>
<td>March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GreenGlass loaded</td>
<td>May 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retention model approved</td>
<td>August 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>GreenGlass reloaded to reflect retention candidates</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention review and rejected allocations reported to OCLC</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GreenGlass reloaded with FINAL retention commitments</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries load commitments in ILSs</td>
<td>February – March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not a One-Time Project

Ongoing shared print work:

- Replacing missing or damaged items
- Transferring retention commitments to other libraries
- Revoking commitments on out of scope material
- Maintaining accurate retention information in ILS records
- Ongoing storage of titles committed
- Developing supporting policies and infrastructure
- Communicating with participating libraries
- Opportunities to build upon shared print (e.g. digitization of rare items)
- Analyzing newer titles & revisit existing commitments
Storage Planning

- Strike a balance when committing—need to be realistic about available space

- Shared print commitments provide a safety net for libraries in weeding content held by others
What’s Different About Publics?

- Publics circulate more items more often:
  - factor that into retention rules
  - review item condition
- Children are more likely to gnaw on library materials, and publics have more kids’ books.
- Celebrity cookbooks—our cultural heritage?
- Different philosophies & reasons for being—publics more driven more by demand, activity, and current events.
- More duplication among publics

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What’s Not Different

Shared library principles—efficiencies and responsible withdrawals to ensure material isn’t lost from the collective collection.
Lessons Learned

- **Multiple public libraries needed**
- **Keep up with weeding & inventory. Inventory, analyze, commit—in that order**
- **Clear on impact of retention commitments—space & replacing lost or damaged titles**
- **Not all material is retention-worthy, but also consider collective needs & local authors**
- **Apply different circulation thresholds to publics**
- **Clear policies & procedures, while allowing for professional discretion & common sense**
- **Ongoing process, not a one and done set of collection analysis**
Thank you!

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