

From June 8th through 11th, I attended the 33rd annual NASIG conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme for this year's conference was "Transforming the Information Community." The conference included not only many valuable workshops, but also many structured opportunities to interact informally including dine arounds, bingo night, and ice cream socials.

Open Access Solutions

Natasha Owens and Christie Thomas from University of Chicago are collaborating with folio, an open source Library Services Platform development project. University of Chicago expects to implement a beta version in January 2019. The advent of folio suggests changes in the electronic resource management market, moving from platform fees with included support to open access platforms with support fees. An interesting feature will be the Codex app, a cross search across to find orders, loans, instances, and other information related to the record. Folio could reduce library spending on platform fees while offering a more integrated solution.

The University of Alberta uses CORAL for their electronic resource management. This system builds a licensing database and displays usage rights to patrons. University of Alberta has a collection strategy department made up of a coordinator, 4 librarians, and 8 support staff. Without those types of resources, I will likely have to investigate the possible support contracts available to this open access solution. Implementing CORAL would revolutionize electronic resource management, currently tracked through a series of Excel documents.

Perpetual Access

Tracking perpetual access is a challenging task for libraries, as shown in the presentation "An Ongoing Treasure Hunt: One Library's Practical Experiences Documenting Post-Cancellation Perpetual Access" by Nancy Donahoo and Arthur Aguilera. In 2103, Boise State University broke up a package of Wiley journals. Post cancellation, the library found their perpetual access only reflected Wiley ownership and did not extend to titles which were previously purchased from Blackwell, now part of John Wiley & Sons.

Documenting content to which they were entitled was challenging and hampered a lack of accounting records. A procedure for tracking perpetual access by journal was developed in their cataloging module as well as their ERMS in order to prevent future data gaps. Donahoo and Aguilera focused on the most used journals since the scope of the project is so vast. They have created or found documented for several hundred journals in the last year, with many more still to go. An important lesson related to consortia contracts found that contracts must specify the rights for individual titles to be useful. I have begun tracking perpetual access for my library and will take their lessons into account. I am submitting requests to vendors, asking for clarification on perpetual access rights in instances where licensing is unavailable or unclear.

Assessment

Applying statistical methods to quantify trends was the topic from Yongming Wang and Jia Mi from the College of New Jersey. TCNJ sought to apply linear regression to monthly searches and full text downloads in the database academic Search Premier. Seven years of data (2010-2017) was analyzed using RStudio. April was consistently the peak month for searches. However, overall searches decreased by 1367 searches/year. Full text downloads have also decreased over the last decade by 603 downloads/year. Wang and Mi intend to analyze other databases in their collection but chose to start with Academic Search Complete because it was most used. I think this has practical implications for Delaware Valley University as another possible predictive measure of database usage.