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Neil Ordinario  
San Jose State University, neil.ordinario@sjsu.edu

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Integrating Circulated Technology into the Library Collection Development Plan

Neil Ordinario, Technology Services Coordinator, Student Computing Services
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, San José State University

Abstract: Academic libraries are increasingly focused on the acquisition and expansion of circulating technology collections. Technology is often governed by auxiliary library services such as Access Services or IT departments and not considered as part of the general library collection. Technology is typically purchased with one-time-use funds and replacement is an ad-hoc process depending on budget availability. Laptops, tablets, and other technologies need to be integrated into the regular collection and included in the library’s collection management planning. This poster chronicles the efforts of San José State University Library’s Student Computing Services department to unify technology purchasing with other collection management strategies and policies, which includes demand driven acquisitions, ongoing evaluation and in-depth assessment. It highlights how these methods bring users in from the margins of technology collection development, putting them at the center of technology purchasing decision.

Research Question: How are technology needs assessed?
Sub Question: How are technology needs assessed?
Sub Question: How are technology needs assessed?
Sub Question: Who manages the circulation and condition of the technology?

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Methodology
- Literature review
- Aggressive Assessment and Evaluation
- Policy Analysis
- Analyze how individual libraries codify purchasing of technology strictly for circulation for students.
- Find collection development policies, IT purchasing policies or specific plans that address circulated technology. The research will record specific selecting and acquisition policy, where it is located and under whose purview decisions are made.
- Identify policy regarding assessment of user needs and how those needs, both hardware and software, are addressed.
- Observe collection maintenance, including reviewing circulation policy and statistics.

SCS Circulation Statistics

AY 2013-2014

AY 2014-2015

AY 2015-16

AY 2016-2017

AY 2017-2018

Discussion: Circulated technology needs to be recognized as a part of the main collection and be standardized to adhere to the library’s collection development plan. As part of the collection development plan, it places circulated technology on a routine schedule for selection, acquisition, maintenance and replacement. More importantly, it opens the collection for evaluation by Continually assessing the library’s users’ needs and seeing how the collection meets those needs. This continuous scanning for needs will allow technology purchases to be more precise, possibly, and quite necessary, breaking away from only laptop and tablet devices.

Conclusion: The goal of any collection development organization must be to provide the library with a collection that meets the appropriate needs of its client population within the limits of its fiscal and personnel resources.” (Johnson, p 1)

Background: As circulation and usage numbers drop, many libraries have undergone the process of trying to redefine themselves in order to remain significant with past, current and potential users. In an effort to break the community’s antiquated view of the library being only a house of books, libraries have pushed to seek to fill user’s other demands, especially their need for computer access. This has led to libraries to begin, at different rates, to shift resources towards technology purchases for circulation. These purchases, though, are typically one-time-use funds, not accounting for depreciation and attrition. Any replacement is planned externally -- by budget availability or a campus refills program. The technology resources, itself, are one-size-fits-all, utilizing hardware specifications, popular apps and programs, to blanketly meet a general user.

Literature Review:
- Users demands for tools and technology
  - The library serves as a place of practicality and convenience. Laptops, hardware tools and even toys provide a cost effective and motivating method for the libraries to involve itself into the community.
- Makerpace technology availability as an evolutionary step for the library
  - Makerpaces have become a more participatory culture, feeding on social engagement and based on both technical and communicative skills for knowledge and innovation. This connection shows how providing equal access to tools and knowledge redefines the librarian’s role to becoming an advocate and a matchmaker connecting potential collaboration.
- Formated collection development planning focuses on recognizing the current and predicting the future environment.
  - Collection development policies are the embodiment of a social contract between the library and its clientele, synchronizing the library’s collection activity with the mission of the library and its parent institution addressing the needs of its identified clientele.

Future directions
- Departmental Collection development plan vs. integration into library collection development
- Demand driven acquisitions
- Creative Media equipment
- Tools and Workstations

References:

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Student Computing Services:
- Located on the student designated 4th floor of the library, SCS loans out Windows laptops, MacBooks, Surface Pro tablets, and other technology accessories to the SJSU community.
- Manage the technology located on the 4th floor including: Video Wall, KLEVR Lab and Sound Studio.
- 12 student assistants form a variety of backgrounds and majors. Our students are encouraged to:
  - Be engaging to fellow students;
  - Provide input in SCS purchasing and policy making.

Libraries are collections built and organized for users. (Eng, 2017)