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Integrating Circulated Technology into the Library Collection Development Plan

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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 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’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 circulated technology purchases for users handled?
- Sub-Question: How are technology needs assessed?
- Sub-Question: Who manages the circulation and condition of the technology?

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.

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 Continuously 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.

Applying collection development strategies also opens up the collection to a variety of options, such as
- **Technology Demand Driven Acquisition**, in which libraries are dependent on users for its decision making evidence.
- By standardizing all resources—text, audio visual and technology tools—in the library into the library wide collection development, it maintains the library social contract with its users with the adequate assessment and evaluation required to satisfy users’ needs.

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)

References:

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Conclusions
- Acknowledgement that technology is a circulated resource
- Importance of codifying technology plan
- Committed student assistant staffing
- Week loan preferred
- User needs go beyond MS Office, Adobe CC, laptops and macbooks

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