

NAVIGATING UNCHARTED TERRITORY: INTRODUCING EBLIP INTO A DEPARTMENT

Laura Newton Miller- MLIS, MEd
Collections Assessment Librarian

OBJECTIVE

What happens in a department when one introduces EBLIP into the daily workflow? The researcher reflects on the challenges and rewards of the first year as a Collections Assessment Librarian, a newly created position in the library.

METHODS

- Journal: Day-to-day activities of first 9 months
- Statistics of Statistics: Collected on monthly basis

RESULTS

Workflows/Procedures

- Collections Assessment Plan- What are we currently doing?
- Renewing e-resources- Usage statistics
- Trials- Creating Guidelines
- Quality Assurance- Program Accreditation/Evaluation

Budget

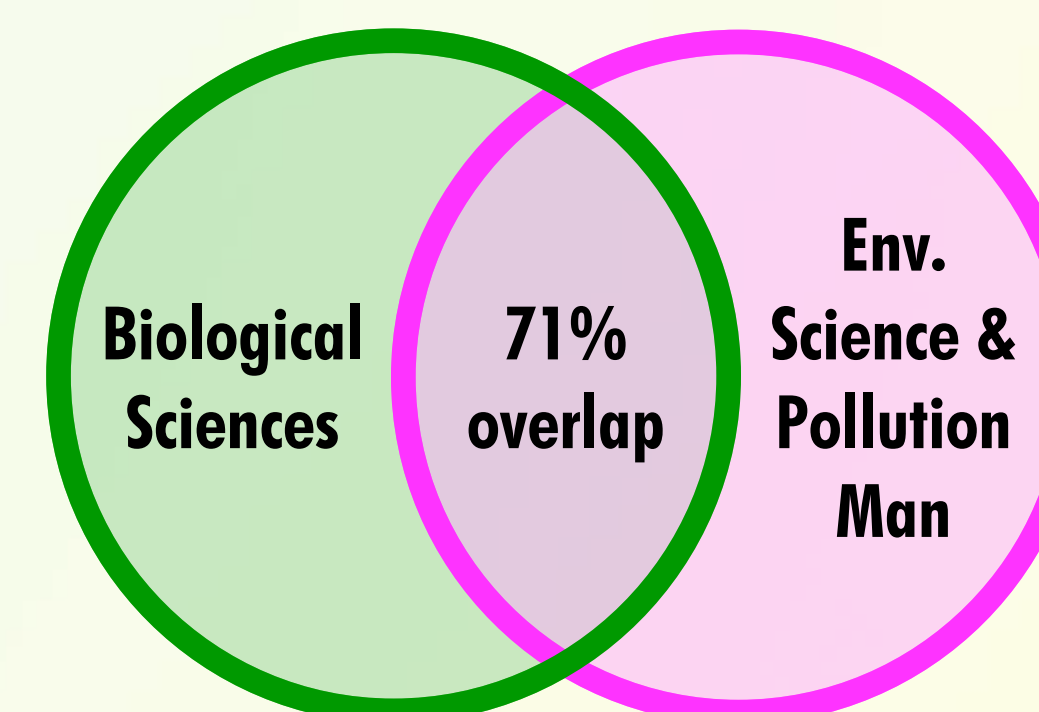
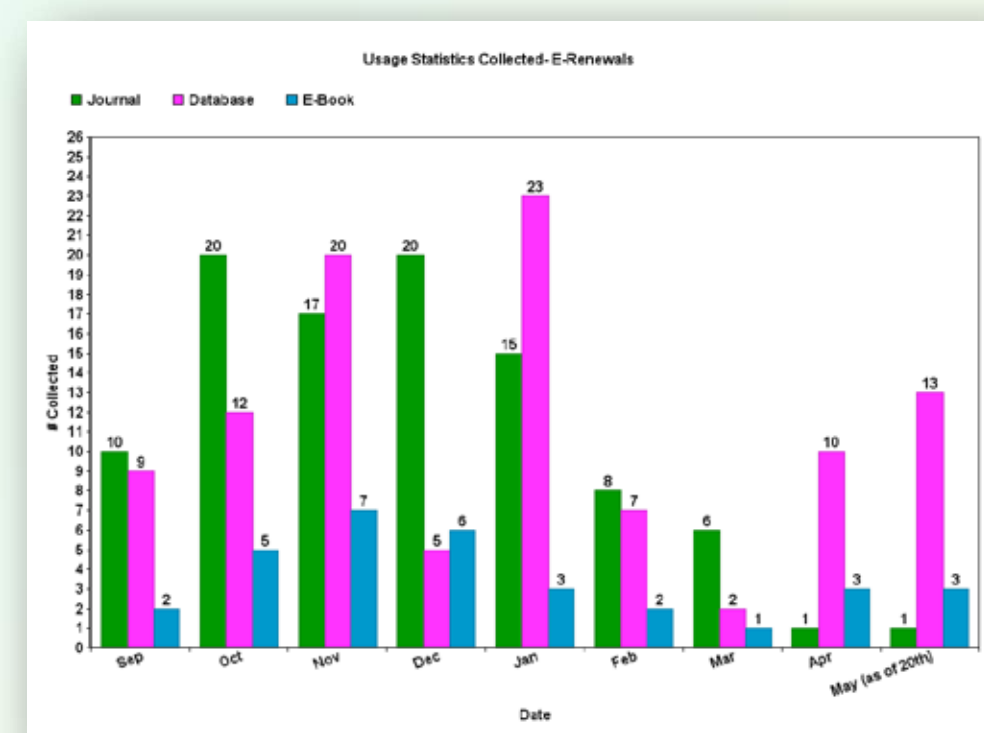
- Overlap analysis of databases
- Low Use/High Cost per Use
- Budget Algorithm- Monographs

Useful Tools (a selection)

- 360 Counter (Serials Solutions)
- Millennium/Sierra
- XL Comparator (free)
- Florence Soft DiffengineX
- Journal Citation Reports/SciMago
- Research Office Data Cubes
- Consortia Library Resources

“A culture of assessment...reassures the converted while persuading the reluctant with data, not anecdotes”.

Schroeder & Babcock Mashek, 2007



QUOTES THROUGHOUT TERM

“I’m an Excel MACHINE”

“My brain is full”

“I get the feeling sometimes people don’t know what to think of me”

“Budget algorithm- SO CRANKY!”

“We collect so many stats- but they are all over the place!”

TRANSITION- REFERENCE SERVICES TO TECHNICAL SERVICES

Strengths-

- Good communicator
- Translator of information
- Understand resources from the “front line” perspective

Challenges-

- Technical Services- Different world
- Millennium/Sierra- Understanding different records; Making lists
- Trying to find a balance- Don’t want to interrupt workflows all at once

FUTURE PLANS

- Collections Assessment Plan- Outputs to Outcomes
- Collection Needs of other Library Departments: Archives, Maps, Data & Government Information Centre, Reserves
- Print Collection Assessment
- 360 Counter- Cost / Use feature
- Update budget algorithm

CONCLUSION

Despite some challenges, introducing EBLIP into daily work procedures is helping the library make better informed decisions about its collection.

LESSONS LEARNED

- It all takes time
- Best laid plans can change because of unforeseen circumstances
- Emotional attachment to resources
- Better appreciation for what goes on behind the scenes

Literature Cited:

Schroeder, R. & Babcock Mashek, K. (2007). Building a case for the teaching library: Using a culture of assessment to reassure converted campus partners while persuading the reluctant. Public Services Quarterly, 3 (1/2).



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