NAVIGATING UNTAPPED TERRITORY: INTRODUCING EBLIP INTO A DEPARTMENT

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“A culture of assessment...reassures the converted while persuading the reluctant with data, not anecdotes”.
Schroeder & Babcock Mashek, 2007

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

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

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

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!”

Literature Cited: