

Acquisitions Roundtable Minutes

November 14, 2006 Baruch College Library Conference Room

Attendees: Chip Stewart (CC), Nancy Macomber (QC), Pat Young (CO), Cecilia Salber (KB), Ann Matsuuchi (BC), Sharon Swacker (NY), Linda Dickinson,(HC) and Njoki Kinyatti (YC)

Mike Waldman (BB) and Jane Fitzpatrick (GC), Co-Chairs

Co-chair Mike Waldman convened the meeting.

1. Nancy Macomber, who along with Sharon Swacker and Mike Waldman attended the Annual Charleston Conference , Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition. Nancy thought the conference was mostly about future options in pricing models and open access. Some vendors with tiered pricing will also add usage fees. The JSTOR model is tiered, with quantiles within each tier. Price can go either up or down, depending on usage. She felt the conference was more for publishers than librarians.
2. Spectra Dimensions was mentioned for use statistics, as well as for comparing collections. Project COUNTER produces statistics, and Standardized Usages Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI), is a “standard data container for moving Project COUNTER usage statistics into a digital repository. Currently COUNTER reports are received in Excel spreadsheets with data from each individual service provider in separate files.”
(http://www.niso.org/committees/SUSHI/SUSHI_comm.html) Chip Stewart mentioned an EBSCO web seminar on Scholarly Stats. You can contact Laurie McFadden (800)753-2726, ext 435 or lmcfadden@ebSCO.com for more information.
3. Nancy also noted, from a session in Charleston, that CHOICE Reviewed books tend to circulate more. But since CHOICE won't review galleys, the time lag may make it hard to purchase the best reviewed titles, since publishers now print in much smaller runs. This is apparent as books published as recently as 2005 are often already out-of-print.
4. Nancy handed out brochures from Better World Books, which sells books for libraries and raises money for literacy programs. They also recycle books that don't sell. For more information, see <http://www.betterworldbooks.com/Impact/Default.aspx>. While useful for getting rid of gift books, CUNY libraries are barred from selling ex-library books, as they are state property. Jane Fitzpatrick suggested the since LACUNY is trying to re-invent the legislative committee, perhaps we could lobby the state to overturn this ban, and allow libraries to sell or give away, rather than dump, their de-accessioned titles. Better World will send boxes and labels for shipping the books to them, but payments need to be negotiated with individual libraries.
5. Ann Matsuuchi uses the Strand Bookstore for pickup and sale of unwanted gift books. They have a rare book room where you can take anything that might be valuable. They do not accept mass market or popular fiction.

6. Pat Young will ask Serials Solutions for pricing for their federated search product. They have a better knowledge base than Ex Libris. CUNY libraries would have to switch link resolvers to use the SS product.
7. Chip asked about Spanish language book dealers. Schoenhof's was mentioned as reliable but expensive. They are on state contract. Jane uses Latin American Book Source (<http://www.latambooks.com/>) which is reliable, and prices are reasonable, but their stock is not extensive.
8. Ann is going to investigate a WIKI for the Acquisitions Roundtable.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chair Jane Fitzpatrick, November 16, 2006