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 are 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.

Background: As a 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 retiree program. The technology resources, itself, are one-time-use-all, utilizing hardware specifications, popular apps and programs, to blanketly meet a general user.

Research Question: How are technology needs assessed?
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, and 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

- 2013-2014
- 2014-2015
- 2015-2016
- 2016-2017
- 2017-2018

AY 2013-2014

AY 2014-2015

AY 2015-2016

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.

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

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

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