

As group conducts planning, librarian puts WorldCat Collection Analysis to work immediately at university



UWF librarian recognizes potential of collection analysis tool and acts on purchasing it in just three months

Situation

The University of West Florida (UWF) is situated on a 1,600-acre nature preserve 10 miles north of downtown Pensacola. It opened its doors in 1967 and today has an annual enrollment of more than 9,500 students at its main and branch campuses. One of the cornerstones of the university is its library system. Not only does it support 76 academic programs, it is also a regional depository for publications from the federal government and the State of Florida.

What keeps the library staff busy, though, is the ongoing collection management for the university's academic programs. Like most libraries, it is involved in a consortium to leverage joint buying power and collections, but knowing what's available across the 11 state university libraries in the group was not possible. "We wanted to be more proactive with collaborative collection management," says Helen Wigersma, Associate Library Director at UWF. **"We needed a better understanding of what was available at all 11 universities."**

Solution

The consortium examined available applications and services and agreed that **WorldCat Collection Analysis offered the solution it required.** A task force was formed and the team began planning a pilot program to use the new tool collectively across the universities.

And that's when things got interesting for Wigersma. "I was involved in the task force," she says. "Through the planning process I spent a lot of time learning what we could do with WorldCat Collection Analysis and how to do it." As planning

AT A GLANCE

- Member of the State University System of Florida
- More than 9,500 students enrolled
- Offers 76 degrees in arts and sciences, business, professional studies
- 752,200 library holdings

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with the consortium continued, **she saw the great potential for her library and decided to act on it.**

Results

One of the first things Wigersma did was provide the UWF nursing program staff with something they never had before: a comparison of their clinical book collection with the collections of other universities. "They were thrilled with what we did," she says. **"We were able to identify books they could consider adding to enhance their collection."**

Next up, Wigersma helped the UWF social work program staff with their accreditation review. She pulled the collection data so they could **demonstrate what they had and determine what they needed to keep their program strong.** "While we could do that with our current library management system, it's not easy. With WorldCat Collection Analysis, it is."

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The more Wigersma uses the collection analysis tool, the more potential she sees in it. “I’m using it now for budgeting. We can demonstrate our level of funding for acquisitions compared to other institutions. It’s not a perfect science, but **we can show administrators how our collection growth compares to other schools,**” she says. “The data is all there.”

Wigersma predicts great things for the entire consortium once they standardize reporting and procedures across the 11 universities. In the meantime, she plans to continue using WorldCat Collection Analysis to support UWF’s academic mission.

For more information about WorldCat Collection Analysis, visit www.oclc.org/collectionanalysis/, call 1-800-848-5878 or send an e-mail to libservices@oclc.org.

