

Community college looks on the stacks and in databases to create accurate collection

WorldCat Collection Analysis plays key role in improving collection management and acquisition activities



Situation

Edmonds Community College is one of 33 higher education institutions of its kind in the state of Washington. Ninety percent of its student population lives within eight miles of the campus and attends classes during the day, at night and online. They come to earn transferable credits for four-year universities or to get a career program degree. A small percentage of students attend for even more varied reasons: work skills enhancement, GED, basic skills training and family education.

That diversity of student opportunities keeps the library staff busy. Just ask Dale Burke. He's in charge of the technical services and is coordinator of collection management. His days are spent verifying inventory, correcting records, working with selectors and preparing for an upcoming college accreditation review. As any librarian knows, those are very timeconsuming tasks. But that workload had never worried Burke—he's an optimist, and for good reason: his library uses OCLC's WorldCat Collection Analysis service.

Solution

In 2005, the library subscribed to WorldCat Collection Analysis based on Burke's previous experience with a similar tool. "I knew what it could do for us, so we signed on immediately when it was introduced," he says. Though excited about having the collection management tool, the first year saw limited use of it. "I started to get familiar with it," he explains. "I looked at data, ran a few reports and then I simply got busy."

AT A GLANCE

- 50-acre campus in Lynnwood, Washington
- Located 15 miles north of Seattle
- 17 certificates and degrees and more than 200 online courses
- Library supports 12,000 students and faculty
- 48,700 volumes

"We get an idea of where we are, so we can determine where we want to go with our collection."

That quickly changed in 2006, with a complete collection inventory project slated for the academic year. "We needed to get a better idea of what we had and what was missing. We also wanted to ensure our records were accurate," Burke says.

Results

WorldCat Collection Analysis plays a large role in the inventory project. Burke uses it to create a snapshot of a small section of the collection prior to doing inventory. The snapshot is based on the holdings listed in WorldCat. Burke then correlates the data with what is listed in the library's own catalog. "That's where we first see the differences," he says.

Next, the staff does a physical inventory to identify what's missing and what's not listed in the databases. "We can then see what we need to replace or weed." At that point, they also update the records in both databases. "Our

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goal is to have everything listed in WorldCat” to support the library’s ongoing inventory program. Once the staff completes the entire inventory section by section, they will start over—and WorldCat Collection Analysis will serve as the core record source.

In addition to getting a handle on the collection, Burke is using WorldCat Collection Analysis to help improve the library holdings. He is one of three title selectors who work with the academic departments to acquire new materials. “I create reports about certain sections of the collection so we (the selectors) have good information to use when we talk to our instructors.”

With WorldCat Collection Analysis, “we get an idea of where we are, so we can determine where we want to go with our collection,” he adds.

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.