

OCLC cataloging services help university's libraries redeploy staff

Redeployment helps staff do more with less



Situation

The University of Texas at Austin Libraries have a long history of using OCLC® services to help keep costs down and use their staff more effectively. Robin Fradenburgh, Associate Director of Technical Services at UT at Austin Libraries, remembers when the libraries began contracting some cataloging projects to OCLC in the mid-1990s.

“We were reorganizing our staff who worked on Spanish and Portuguese materials,” says Robin. “Even then the strategy was ‘do more with less,’ so we looked for opportunities to do certain cataloging projects in new ways.”

Solution

UT at Austin Libraries continue to use OCLC’s Contract Cataloging service for their Spanish-language cataloging. According to Robin, the libraries budget annually for original cataloging with OCLC. “In these tough economic times, we believe this funding is a good value for us,” she says.

In 2006, UT at Austin Libraries began using OCLC’s WorldCat® Cataloging Partners service (then known as PromptCat®) for their firm order materials, and added approval materials to this agreement in 2008. “Our rationale for doing this was different when we started using OCLC in the mid-1990s, says Robin, “but we still have the same goal, which is repurposing our cataloging staff to support digital and electronic initiatives.”

When Blackwell was its materials vendor (YBP is their current vendor), UT at Austin Libraries used the WorldCat Cataloging Partners ‘100% record delivery’ option, which offers a guarantee of a record for every title with an LC or Dewey call number and at least one subject heading for all nonfiction titles. “For monographs, we have been happy accepting any full-level cataloging copy from the U.S.,” Robin says.

Results

UT at Austin Libraries have been able to move significant parts of their North American approval plan and firm orders to WorldCat Cataloging Partners. According to Robin, this has

AT A GLANCE

- Seventh-largest academic library in the U.S., according to 2009 Association of Research Libraries statistics
- University of Texas at Austin Libraries comprise 17 libraries that include subject-oriented libraries and special collections
- Founded in 1883, the University of Texas at Austin has a 350-acre main campus with 21,000 faculty and staff, 17 colleges and schools and more than 50,000 students
- Learn more: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

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Robin Fradenburgh, Associate Director, Technical Services

enabled redeployment of staff to work on the libraries’ metadata projects that support UT at Austin’s institutional repository.

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UT at Austin Libraries may expand their work with OCLC beyond original cataloging for Spanish-language materials and copy cataloging for North American monographs, according to Robin. “We’re interested in pursuing more formats, including cataloging for our CDs and DVDs.”

She also acknowledges the trust involved in using the WorldCat Cataloging Partners service. “In order for it to work, staff need to accept cataloging records we receive as delivered.”

“Initially we spent a couple months looking at the cataloging records and working out the kinks,” she says. “But now, the materials arrive and go out to the shelves pretty readily. And our staff spend their time working on records for materials that need local value added.”