

Collection Profiles of Marine Science Libraries: Understanding Our Collections Through Better Evaluation

Beth M. Paskoff
School of Library & Information Science
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

ABSTRACT

It is difficult, even with years of experience, for librarians to determine the characteristics of a library collection. Effective collection evaluation and management require a more thorough knowledge of the content of a collection than simply the number of titles in specific call number categories. Shelflist sampling is a proven method of collection evaluation. The use of this simple technique will be discussed and illustrated using comparative data from several IAMSLIC libraries. Detailed information about the distribution of imprints according to age and language of publication, percentage of duplication, and distribution of serial and monographic formats in each subject section of the collection will be provided. The data gathered through shelflist sampling can provide a more in-depth understanding of marine science collections than do other methods of evaluation, without errors caused by subjective decisions. When graphically portrayed as collection profiles, the information is easily understood by managers, users and other librarians.

Paper not available at time of printing.

For additional information contact the author.