



Assessing Government Documents Collections

An Integrated Approach

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Why Bother?

- Importance of collection assessment
 - Collection development
 - Rule of 95%
 - Closing the loop
 - Accreditation



Types of Assessments

- Different methods
 - Collection centered
 - User centered
- Western Library Network (WLN)
 - Quantitative
 - Qualitative



WLN Conspectus

Version: 02/06		CONSPLECTUS DATABASE WORKSHEET - LC				Page: 8	
Division:	PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	Library:	Houston Cole Library			By: John Graham	
LC CLASS	LINE NUMBER	DIVISIONS, CATEGORIES and SUBJECTS	COLLECTIONS & LANGUAGE CODES			COMMENTS	
			CL	AC	GL	PC	
BA980-076	PAR68	Judaism - Liturgy & Ritual	1b	1b	2	2	
			17				
BM675-747	PAR68.2	Judaism - Festivals, Rites & Customs	3	3	3	2	
			88				
BP	PAR68.5	Islam, Bahá'í, Theosophy	3	3a	3b	2	Grown dramatically
			462				
BP1-137	PAR69	Islam - The Koran	3	3	3	2	Grown dramatically
			131				
BP140-165	PAR70	Islamic Law	3	3	3	2	Grown dramatically
			55				
BP160-185	PAR70.5	Islam - Practice & Theology	3	3	3	2	Grown dramatically
			73				
BP201-203	PAR70.6	Islam - Black Muslims	2	2	2b	2	Popular topic
			8				
BP200-205	PAR71	Bahá'ism	1b	1	1b	2	
			8				
BP650-667	PAR72	Theosophy, Anthroposophy	2a	2a	2b	2	
			72				
BQ	PAR72.5	Buddhism	2b	2b	2b	2	Not balanced
			119				



Docs: Uniqueness

- How docs differ from traditional subject collections
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Items received free of charge
 - Multiple classification systems
 - Electronic



Docs: Challenges

- How differences present challenges
 - Where do they fit? (interdisciplinary)
 - How are they selected? (acquisition)
 - How are they classed? (system)
 - Can they be counted? (electronic)

Writing the Assessment



- Step by step
 - Electronic resources
 - Acquisitions & funding
 - Withdrawals
 - FDLP guidelines/mandates
 - Summary
 - Recommendations

Evaluation & Planning

- Narrative summary
 - Strengths and weaknesses
- Recommendations
 - Suggestions for improvement
 - Future planning
- Conclusion



Resources

■ Collection Development

- FDLP Collection Development Page
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/coll-dev/index.html
- Fontno, T. (2002), "Collection development 101: the challenges for a new documents librarian", *DTTP: Documents to the People*, Vol. 30 No. 2, pp. 10-11.
- Houston Cole Library Collection Assessment Guidelines
<http://www.jsu.edu/library/docs/CollectionAssessmentGuidelines.doc>

■ Policies and Manuals

- Bushing, M., Burns, D. and Powell, N. (1997), *Using the Conspectus Method: A Collection Assessment Handbook*, WLN, Lacey, WA.
- McAbee, S.L. (2001), *Houston Cole Library Collection Management and Development Policy*, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL.



Questions?

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