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STATE UNIVERSITY



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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



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Types of Assessments

■ Different methods

- Collection centered
- User centered

■ Western Library Network (WLN)

- Quantitative
- Qualitative



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WLN Conspectus

Division:	LINE NUMBER	PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION	CONSPECTUS				Comments
			COLLECTION & LANGUAGE CODES	CL	AC	DL	
BM660-679	PART6	Judaism - Liturgy & Ritual	1b	1b	2	2	
				17			
BM875-747	PART8.2	Judaism - Festivals, Rites & Customs	3	3	3	2	
			88				
BP	PART8.5	Islam, Bahaiism, Theosophy	3	3a	3b	2	Grown dramatically
			46				
BP1-137	PART9	Islam & the Koran	3	3	3	2	Grown dramatically
			131				
BP140-160	PART0	Islamic Law	3	3	3	2	Grown dramatically
			55				
BP160-195	PART0.5	Islam - Practice & Theology	3	3	3	2	Grown dramatically
			73				
BP221-229	PART0.6	Islam - Black Muslims	2	2	2b	2	Popular topic
			8				
BP300-396	PART1	Bahaiism	1b	1	1b	2	
			8				
BP500-597	PART2	Theosophy, Anthroposophy	2a	2a	2b	2	
			72				
BQ	PART2.5	Buddhism	2b	2b	2b	2	Not balanced
			119				



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Docs: Uniqueness

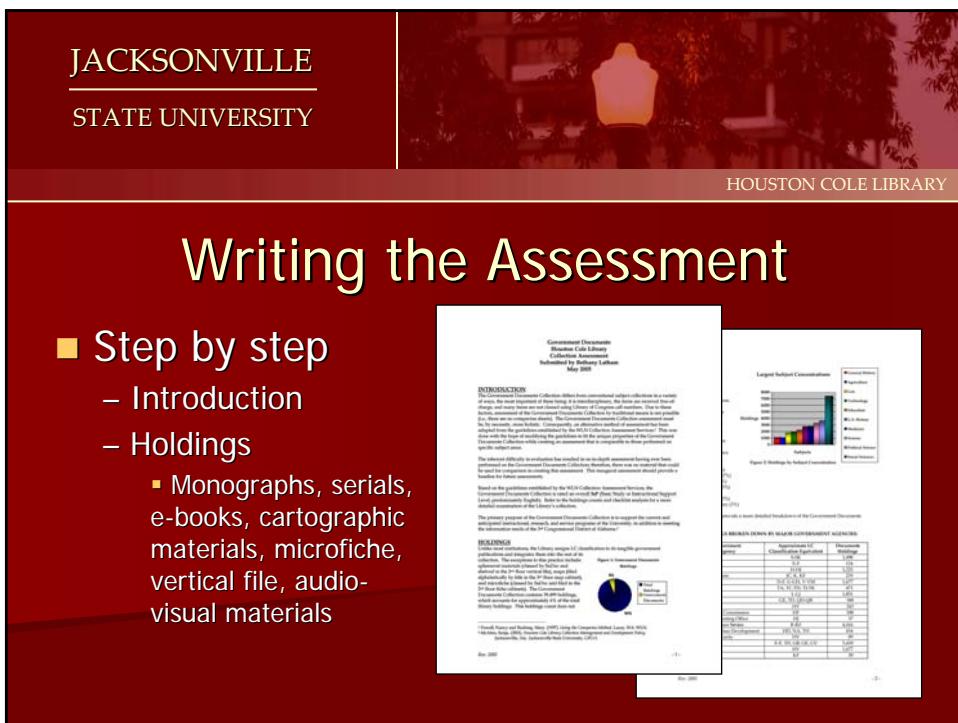
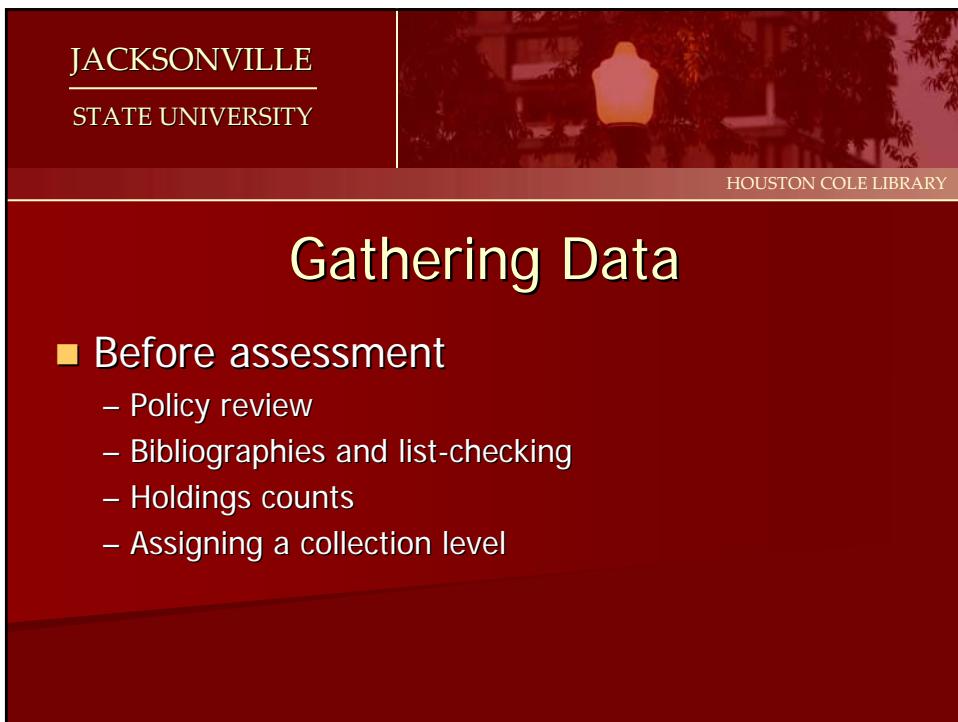
- How docs differ from traditional subject collections
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Items received free of charge
 - Multiple classification systems
 - Electronic



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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)





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Writing the Assessment

■ Step by step

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



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Evaluation & Planning

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



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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.



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Questions?

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