ABSTRACT

This study uses data from three reports: the Cataloging priorities based on usage records for a sizable legacy collection that is only partially cataloged. The Libraries Circulation Report (2015-2018) currently in SuDoc Stem Clicks PURLs Circs Total Title Notes.

BACKGROUND

Since 2012, AUL has focused on providing access to two areas: historic aviation materials and selected Department of Agriculture publications. As a Center of Excellence for these two areas through the ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries) Collaborative Federal Depository Program, the Libraries have agreed to house and provide access to these documents. By 2018, these materials were largely cataloged and the Libraries wanted to take a focused approach to setting cataloging priorities for the rest of the collection.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Which SuDoc classifications are most used?
2. Are the most-used classifications fully cataloged? Would they benefit from retrospective cataloging?

METHODOLOGY

This study extracted three years (2015-2018) of circulation data for tangible government publications, one year of click-through data for online documents from Auburn's public catalog (2017-2018), and one year of data from the PURL Usage Reporting Tool for online documents (2017-2018).

The study combined circulation rates for documents, click-through data for documents, and PURL Usage Reporting Tool data for documents to create a list of most-used documents.

After creating a ranked list by SuDoc stem, each entry was checked to verify the completeness of cataloging and suitability for further cataloging.

CONCLUSIONS

This study uses data from three reports:

- Cataloging priorities based on usage (Figure 2)
- Number of circulations per title ranged from 1 to 17
- 141 titles (83%) circulated only once

PURL Usage Reporting Tool (July 2017-June 2018) (Figure 3)

- 3471 PURLs were accessed through Auburn's IP ranges and domains
- The report included only documents accessed through PURLs provided by the U.S. Government Publishing Office

Click-through Report (July 2017-June 2018) (Figure 4)

- 5787 online documents were accessed through the public catalog
- The report includes data for:
  - Documents accessed through GPO-provided PURLs
  - Documents accessed through non-PURL URLs
  - Documents in the HathiTrust
  - Serial Set publications from Readex
  - Congressional hearings from ProQuest
  - ERIC documents
  - Technical reports from OSTI
  - Journals provided through NIH

Figure 1 represents most-used SuDoc classifications when usage data is combined. Table 1 lists cataloging priorities determined through combined usage data from the three studies.

The following publications were excluded from the cataloging priorities:

- Congressional hearings
- Serial Set publications
- ERIC documents
- Technical reports from OSTI
- Journals provided through NIH

All documents in these categories are completely cataloged.

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