



After the deluge: understanding and valuing collections at ANU Library

Fires, Floods and Failures:
Future Proofing against Disaster

Disaster responses

- First response: disaster recovery + communication
- Second response: services back online + communication/strategy
- Third response - calculating the replacement cost of the loss
- Fourth response - rebuilding the collection, engaging with the academic community

We had Monika Szunejko on ILL

- Created a ‘populations’ framework to understand the collection
- Established methodologies for calculating replacement costs
- (Different methodologies for different populations)
- Documented everything for the lay people

Challenge #1: Understanding collections in a disaster context

- A: Monographs: 113,618 items
- B: Reference: 1,735 titles
- C: Audio-visual: 1,323 items
- D: Serials: 3,078 titles (approx. 73,913 issues)
- E: Microforms: 5,396 titles, 14,596 reels, 35,674 fiche +)
- F: Official Documents: 5,874 titles

Challenge #2: Finding Critical Evidence

- Following other libraries' examples (e.g. UWA)
- Researching costs from reputable sources
- Valuation vs. replacement costs
- Data collection and analysis
- Ensuring assertions are statistically valid and evidence based: Statistician and Forensic Accountant

Evidence sources

- American Library Association's ***Prices of U.S. and Foreign Published Materials***
- Library Journal's ***Periodicals Price Survey***
- Prices from vendors
- Data from our Integrated Library Management System

Evidence sources

- Digitisation costs from vendors
- Cataloguing and end-processing costs from CAVAL
- Professional knowledge and experience

Challenge #3: Find, Buy, Place costs

- The cost of rebuilding a collection is not simply the cost of the materials
- Significant costs in staff time and materials to get material back on the shelves
- Each population has its own replacement challenges

Challenge #3: Find

- Checking ILMS to see if the item is already held
- Search vendor websites to find a copy that is available for purchase
- Place the order with the vendor
- Out of print titles may require multiple searches - 2nd and 3rd searches factored in
- Create order in ILMS

Challenge #3: Buy

- Shipping costs included here
- Key invoice in ILMS
- Reconcile purchase card receipts
- Receive monograph or check in serial issues (unpacking, checking physical condition, record receipt date in ILMS, create item record)
- Claiming orders not received (around 10% of orders)

Challenge #3: Place

- Stationery costs (barcodes, tattle-tape etc.)
- End-processing
- Cataloguing
- Shipping/checking/receiving/loading catalogue records if items processed by a shelf-ready vendor
- Moving items from technical services team in Menzies Branch to Chifley Branch; checking in, shelving

Lessons Learned: Our Systems

- No dataset is perfect, but knowing historical practices helps
- Knowing your experts will save you time and frustration
- Data in the ILMS was available and reliable for the most part

Lessons Learned: Advice for Others

- Make a plan - expand your disaster recovery plan to include responses 2-4
- Know your experts
- Know your collections
- Document, document, document
- Communicate internally
- Be clear on how you will prove everything to the non-librarians