

University library uses WorldCat Collection Analysis for annual academic program reviews

William Woods University goes from peer comparison to purchasing in just three months



Situation

William Woods University is a private, liberal arts institution in Fulton, Missouri. Originally a school for girls orphaned during the Civil War, the university underwent many changes during the 1990s. It admitted men, changed its name, added graduate programs for working adults and expanded undergraduate programs.

“Each year we review current academic programs and proposed ones,” says Erlene Dudley, Library Director. In 2005, with the university’s accreditation review scheduled for 2007, the **administration began formalizing the assessments.**

To fulfill the library’s role, Dudley knew she needed a more comprehensive way to detail the library’s titles and needs. “Simply saying we have this many titles in History doesn’t do much,” she explains. **“We also wanted to see how we compared to other institutions** to identify what we needed.”

Solution

Dudley knew exactly what she wanted—WorldCat Collection Analysis. She had learned about it through her involvement with the OCLC Members Council.

She knew that in addition to having access to detailed collection data and being able to manipulate it for reports, WorldCat® Collection Analysis would allow her to **compare her library’s collection to collections at other universities.** “Putting our collection into context with peer institutions would give us a better idea of our strengths and needs,” she says. “I wanted to compare our collection against other colleges in Missouri, which are essentially our competitors.”

AT A GLANCE

- Founded in 1870 in Fulton, Missouri (www.wmwoods.edu)
- Library serves 2,900 traditional and nontraditional students
- 90,000 titles in collection
- Charter member of MOBIUS, a statewide system of academic libraries in Missouri

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Even collections for unique programs can be compared, says Dudley. “We have an Interpreter Training/American Sign Language program and an Equestrian Studies program. Once we identified which school’s program was most like ours, I was able to contact them and compare collections.”

“I’m already buying books based on the findings of those one-to-one comparisons,” adds Dudley.

Results

What’s most impressive about what the library has done with WorldCat Collection Analysis™ is the short amount of time they’ve been able to do it in—**just three months.** Peer comparisons, assessments, acquisition planning and purchases. **“I could not have done all this without WorldCat Collection Analysis,”** Dudley says.

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She cites one specific example where **she did an assessment for a program that revealed things no one knew**. “We realized that our NetLibrary eBooks filled the subject gaps we identified,” she says. “We then found people were using them frequently. This opens up our acquisition thinking, but more importantly, addresses a program need with materials we currently have.”

It took little time to get up to speed on WorldCat Collection Analysis, and already the staff is realizing the time savings for future assessments. “We’ve been able to establish benchmarks to build on,” she says. “And it’s been extremely useful for developing budgets because **it’s an independent, objective source of data.**”

For more information about WorldCat Collection Analysis, visit www.oclc.org/collectionanalysis/, call 1-800-848-5878 or send an e-mail to libservices@oclc.org.