Increasing Access to Serials Without Assigned ISSNs: a Poster Session

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Increasing Access to Serials Without Assigned ISSNs: A Poster Session

Presented by Barbara M. Pope, MALS
Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS
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The Problem
• Significant portion of our print serials do not have ISSN, which causes the following difficulties:
  o Access problems for patrons
  o Under-used serials collection
  o Frustration for staff and patrons
  o Unnecessary interlibrary loan requests for owned titles

Solution
• We discovered that our open resolver vendor has the ability to link serials without assigned ISSNs
• Vendor noted that linking would not work for all titles

The Process
• We generated a report from our ILS of serials titles without ISSNs
• A student employee assessed which titles have assigned ISSNs and those records were updated
• Our open URL vendor asked for a spreadsheet with the title, OCLC number, and URL for each record
• Vendor created records for the titles in our print holdings database

An Example of a Successfully Linking Title

A Student Employee Created a Spreadsheet

Problems Encountered After Implementation
• Upon testing, I found that some titles did not link:
  o Similar titles showed up as one title with no URL
  o We had other titles with no URL
  o Some titles were not in the database
  o Some titles with abbreviations were truncated and did not link

Example of a Title That Will Not Link

Example of a Title With No URL in the Record

Example of a Transcated Title

Changes Made as a Result of Problems
• Added alternative title links in order to link to catalog:
  o Entirely different in a manual search by title
• Also added publication date information to our database in differentials between similar titles

Results
• Increased access to print and microform serials
• We added 885 titles to our print holdings database
• 20 had assigned ISSNs or were later assigned ISSNs
• 533 (61.6%) of the rest are linking in the open URL resolver
• 2 titles were not serials and were added to the database in error
• Database will be updated periodically in the future

Example of Title Not in Our Database: Parent’s Magazine and Better Homemaking

Other Problems
• Some titles had assigned ISSNs and ISSNs for some titles were assigned later

Example of Title Not in Our Database – Parent’s Magazine and Better Homemaking

Conclusions
• Ability to link to serials without ISSNs has increased access to our print holdings
• One step is that we will also add: increased usage of our print and microform holdings, decreased ILL requests from our patrons for owned titles
• Database will be updated periodically in the future

Other Conclusions
• Currently periodic reference/interlibrary loan librarianship at Pittsburg State University
• Managing print and electronic journal subscriptions, ISSN, collection maintenance, and OCLC local holdings maintenance
• 12 years combined experience working in serials, reference, collection development, acquisitions, cataloging, archives, and instruction

Who Am I?
• Currently periodic reference/interlibrary loan librarianship at Pittsburg State University
• Managing print and electronic journal subscriptions, ISSN, collection maintenance, and OCLC local holdings maintenance
• 12 years combined experience working in serials, reference, collection development, acquisitions, cataloging, archives, and instruction

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