OPENING PANDORA'S BOX: ASSESSING A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT COLLECTION

Loida Pan, Holly Peterson, Uyen Tu Nguyen, and Sanga Sung

Government Information Services and the department of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Support, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library has been a United States Federal Depository Library since 1884. The collection assessment project outlined in our poster focuses on the selection of federal government titles received by the library through the Federal Depository Library Program. We began by organizing our full list of FDLP holdings. We also looked at usage statistics from two different sources – our library catalog and the FDLP's Permanent Uniform Resource Locator (PURL) usage reports for online items. We did run into some challenges with our catalog statistics, as the library had recently migrated platforms and did not give us a comprehensive view of item usage. Another part of this project focuses on collaborating with our subject specialists across campus to advise on selection recommendations. We also are working with our Acquisitions Department to help make search terms in our databases more user-friendly.

As this project continues, we will be focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives in relation to the selection of documents as well as outreach projects, like virtual and in-person exhibits that highlight the output of agencies and subagencies that relate to marginalized and underrepresented identities. Other projects we have planned include Library Guides that highlight the collection and outline searching techniques to improve discoverability. We are also looking into adding a new filter to our catalog search to help our library users discover the government document collection.

Thank you for listening; please reach out if you have any questions about our poster and project!