

ACRL ANSS Criminal Justice and Criminology Discussion Group

Criminal Justice and Criminology Collections Development and Reference Services in Academic Libraries: Access and Opportunities

Presenters:

Erica Coe, University of Washington, Tacoma, Library
Criminal Justice, Business, Healthcare Leadership, Nursing, Social Work Subject Librarian

Lorena O'English, Washington State University, Pullman, Library
Political Science, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Social Sciences Data, Sports Studies, Theater, and Dance Subject Librarian

Date: Saturday, January 26, 2013

Time: 4:30-5:30 pm

Place: Westin Seattle Hotel, Denny/Mercer Room

- A. Introductions and Welcome: Sally Willson Weimer, Co-Convener
14 attended (see sign in list with email addresses)
- B. Request volunteer to take notes ->
Alida Field, MLS
- C. Erica Coe and Lorena O'English: Presentations

Both presenters gave a brief overview of the character of the populations served by their collections

L. E. – practitioner-oriented, e.g. police, corrections, people with military backgrounds, both graduate and undergraduates;

E. C. – the criminology program is a subdivision of social work, there are 12 FT faculty, students are mostly undergraduates and the collection is new and in need of filling out)

Washington State has some flexibility in its collection development due to the presence of a staff member with an MLS and a degree in criminal justice. Buying decisions are partially influenced by the desire to avoid developing a “vanilla” collection. Ms. English recommended [the Law and Politics Book Review](#) site at the University of Maryland and [Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books](#) hosted at Rutgers University in N.J., in addition to using *Choice* for selection. Ms. O'English also discussed the conventional wisdom of *not* including revised dissertations when developing a collection because

revised dissertations are generally perceived as being similar to the output of a vanity press (insufficiently reviewed to guarantee quality scholarship), and concluded that it can be useful to consider including revised dissertations, if the topic/scholarship is adequate or useful. This is one way, in addition to seeking out material that reflects local conditions, that it may be possible to avoid a collection with generic content.

Collections are developed to support the specific curriculum being offered by a particular school, as is the case with the criminology collection at U of W, Tacoma. In this case, Ms. Coe emphasized that in addition to being a newer collection, the criminology material is only used on the Tacoma campus, which is the only campus that provides a program in criminal justice.

There was some discussion about individual preferences for Proquest vs. Ebsco, and material that is created by/for professionals in the field (NGOs, think tanks, etc.), as compared to peer reviewed material and how that content can round out a collection.

A discussion related to the complexity involved in using eBooks included how some providers adjust what materials are made available by moving the date of publication (e.g. the school pays for two years of access to a particular title, and what is available moves based on the current date). There are many issues related to this format.

WSU will mail materials to remote patrons, as well as provide access to full-text content.

Attendees discussed issues related to streaming media (Alexander Street Media) and where else to access criminal justice related content, including the use of films on demand and textbooks that were supposed to include access to streaming media, but didn't.

The presenters discussed the use of LibGuides and the pitfalls associated with wanting to include too much content. L. O'English uses invisible content in her LibGuides to make material available for her own use during presentations (e.g. links to related material, teaching tips, etc.) It is challenging to keep the amount of material down to a reasonable level; editing is hard.

Other services provided by the library:

- Citation review for faculty applying for tenure
- 1 on 1 appointments w/graduate students
- Emphasis on the benefits of creating accounts in databases and on publishers sites
- Encourage students to tell their friends about the library

- Use Google's Doodle to calendar appointments with individual students
- Methods classes
- Promoting the librarian's hours on the reference desk, so students can get help

D. Questions and Answers

E. Criminal Justice and Criminology toolkit – Draft Introduction

See handout "Draft: A Quick List of Collection Development Tools and Practices for Criminal Justice/Criminology Librarians, Adapted Draft for Criminal Justice/Criminology by Sally W. Weimer"

F. Suggested Topics for ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, June, 2013

Sally Willson Weimer, University of California, Santa Barbara

And

Christa Fowler, University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee,
Co-Conveners

Submitted for review 1/31/13

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