
DO WE COLLECT THAT INFORMATION AND IF SO, HOW CAN I ACCESS IT? DESIGNING A STATISTICS DEPOSITORY

MICHAEL PERRY, HEAD OF ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING,
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

GINA PETERSEN, LIBRARY ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST,
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

BACKGROUND

- Library Organizational Restructuring
 - Empower front line staff to make operational decisions
 - Allow administrators to focus on strategic issues
- Changes
 - New department & manager: Assessment and Planning
 - New hire: Library Assessment Specialist

WHY

- Decentralized information collection
- Unclear responsibility
- Possible duplication of work
- Where is information stored?
- Who to ask about data?

GOALS

- Identify who collects what
- Identify who is responsible for what
- Central data depository location
- Data and analysis community of practice

HOW

- SharePoint Survey
 - 55 Responses
- Assessment Committee Review
 - Clarity?
 - Personally identifiable information?
 - Multiple data sources?
 - Missing information?
 - Useful data?

CHALLENGES

- Who needs this information?
 - Administration
 - Department Heads
 - Staff
- Variety of data
 - Not clearly useful
 - Strategic vs. Operational

WHAT WE LEARNED

- 35 different systems
- 9 manually collected data points
- Multiple data collection/sources for single statistics
 - Entrance/Exit Data
- Duplication vs. Overlap

NEXT STEPS

- Central data repository
- Tableau Sever
- Data analysis group
- Blending data



QUESTIONS?

