

“Buying Our Own”: An Analysis of the Holdings of Local Faculty-Authored Publications at the University of Calgary

Libraries often pride themselves on buying “local” works; for instance, a public library can attempt to collect all the books written by local authors. Looking at an academic environment, in 2004, I began to investigate how the University of Calgary Library has done in acquiring recent works written by members of the campus community, chiefly faculty members.

The first stage of this project was to look at the journals in which local authors published in 2003. After ethical approval and approval by IMAG, I harvested the journal title information from section 3 of the 2003 faculty annual reports. I looked at over 3200 citations, from 1587 annual reports, producing a list of over 1500 separate serial titles.

The subscription status of each title was checked against library holdings, producing some interesting results. The Library has access to the current issues of 73% of the serials (mostly journals) listed in the annual reports. There is no current access to the remaining 27% though there are some cancelled print subscriptions and some electronic journals with no current issues among these. Of the 73%, 63% are held in print current print subscriptions, 59% have current access available through publisher e-journal platforms (e.g. ScienceDirect from Elsevier, Cambridge Journals Online), and 50% are accessible through 3rd-party e-journal sources (e.g. Academic Search Premier, Expanded Academic ASAP). Many titles are held in two or three of these ways.

This, of course, begs the question, is this good? How well is the University of Calgary Library doing in “buying our own”, at least as far as 2003 publication in journals is considered. I would say that 73% *is* good and is a little higher than expected; my initial guess was that it would be around 65%. The relatively higher figure is likely due to the increased number of journals, especially e-journals, which we have acquired in the last few years.

As for next steps in this project, I would like to harvest the journal information from the 2002 and 2004 annual reports; this would allow for comparisons to the 2003 data (and to each other). I would also like to look at monograph publication for the same years. In addition, it would be wise to employ all of this data in Library collection development. As well, I am also hoping to publish an article or two based on this research (I have already made a conference presentation on this work).

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