**Quantitative Data**

Use statistics are essential for electronic resource assessment but they don’t tell the whole story.

**Usage Statistics**
- Different use statistics tell different stories
  - Vendor supplied
  - Commercial aggregator
  - Link resolver

**Cost Data**
- Costs
- Cost per use
- Proportion of overall budget

**Qualitative Data**

**Conventional Sources**
- Focus groups
- LibQUAL+ comments

**Institutional Sources**
Institutional identity represents a critical source of qualitative data.
- Mission and identity
- Political & cultural environment
- Research funding
- Accreditation requirements

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**Meta-Analysis**

*Meta-analysis is a method of combining “the results of several studies for the purposes of drawing general conclusions.”*  

**Modified Meta-Analysis**
Duquesne employed a modified form of meta-analysis that combined multiple sources of quantitative and qualitative data.

**Quantitative Data Sources**
- Identify patterns across data sources
- Logarithmic charting

**Journal Metrics**
Journal metrics attempt to use quantitative methodologies, such as citation frequency, algorithms, and statistical analysis, to determine the quality of journals (ranking).
- Thomson / ISI Journal Impact Factor
- SciMago Journal Ranking (SJR)
- Source Normalized Impact Per Paper (SNIP)
- EigenFactor
- JournalRanking.com

**Institutional Indicators of Quality**
- Research needs
- Grant funding
- Who needs the titles?

**Essential Titles**
- “Stupid library” titles
- Main journals within disciplines
- Core title lists

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**Decision Making**

Surprising decisions can result after careful review of all data sources using meta-analysis.
- Renewing selected high cost per use journals
- Cutting “sacred cow” subscriptions
- Continuing two aggregated journal collections with significant overlaps
- Opening conversations about switching formats

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**New Perspectives**

Improved data collection paired with meta-analysis can lead to new perspectives.
- The big deal can work!
- You don’t need to be married to subscriptions! Renting can be better than owning.
- Swapping a subscription is not the end of the world!
- One size does not fit all (different solutions for different user populations).
- Sometimes you have to compare apples to oranges.

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**Library Assessment Conference 2010 — Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment**

David Nolfi, Health Sciences Librarian | Tracie Ballock, Head, Collection Management | Carmel Yurochko, Serials / Electronic Resources Librarian

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