Just in case or just in time?

Time to assess area studies print collections in research libraries

Osman Celik, David Hirsch, Roxanne Peck
UCLA Library
What is Area Studies?

Area Studies at UCLA

- Middle East, Slavic/East European Studies, Latin America, Africa, Western Europe, East Asia, South and Southeast Asia

Print monographs assessment is global with these exceptions:

- East Asian vernacular language materials
- English languages materials published in UK, US and Australia purchased from mainstream vendors (YBP, Coutts/ProQuest)
- South and Southeast Asia (acquired through a different method, e.g. LC Cooperative Acquisitions Program)
Circulation Statistics

Area Studies Print Acquisitions and Circulation Transactions from 2006-2015

- Slavic/Eastern Europe: 1,941 (Circulation Transactions) - 9,409 (Total Number of Print Books Purchased)
- Middle East: 6,475 (Circulation Transactions) - 42,818 (Total Number of Print Books Purchased)
- Latin America: 2,343 (Circulation Transactions) - 31,513 (Total Number of Print Books Purchased)
- Western Europe: 3,700 (Circulation Transactions) - 60,922 (Total Number of Print Books Purchased)
- Africa: 1,014 (Circulation Transactions) - 22,263 (Total Number of Print Books Purchased)
Collection Support for Research

Collection Support for Faculty and Graduate Student Areas of Research Interest in Middle Eastern Studies

- Arabic Languages and Literatures: 6 Researchers
- History of Near East/Middle East: 7 Researchers
- History of North Africa: 7 Researchers
- Indo-Iranian Languages and Literatures: 8 Researchers
- Islam: 7 Researchers
- Judaism: 7 Researchers
- Modern Middle East History: 9 Researchers
- Oriental Languages and Literatures: 18 Researchers

UCLA Print Books in Middle Eastern Languages
Keyword Searching: Does It Tell the Whole Story?

Five Most Common Research Areas

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<tr>
<td>Arabic Language &amp; Literature</td>
<td>31,404</td>
<td>5,724</td>
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<td>Armenian Studies</td>
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<td>Persian Language &amp; Literature</td>
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What We Learned/Future Goals

• Assessment is not one dimensional
  • Collection data is messy
  • Combination of search methods needed
  • Class numbers, subject headings, keywords
  • Circulation statistics provide an indication of how well we are serving our faculty and graduate students

• Need help from other departments to get accurate data
  • Local practices in tech services need to align with assessment activities to capture relevant data

• Future goals:
  • Focus on Interlibrary Loan statistics for lending and borrowing
  • Better tracking for non-standard acquisitions (LC Coop, gifts)
  • Utilizing OCLC Collection Analyzer
Questions?

Thank you!