

ASAC Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 10am

In Attendance: Judith Wines (UHLS), Chloe Whittaker (TROY), Amy Powarzynski (WSTR), Sarah Kerr-Mace (MEND), Natalie Hurteau (GUIL), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Alexis Mokler (EGRN)

Judith: Is anyone currently doing any collection evaluation with Sierra data?

Amy: Uses Sierra to get circ data for items thatWSTR doesn't have a lot of.WSTR also checks out in-house laptops to keep track of usage.

Chloe: TROY is using Sierra to identify trends for future collection projects.

How-To: Using Sierra data to improve your collection

Sierra recently held a webinar on one of their products, LibraryIQ. Judith and Anne watched the webinar and agreed that some features of this product present interesting information that we could replicate without spending money on the whole program. Other features utilize patron credit card information (through Claritas), which seems very invasive. To avoid purchasing LibraryIQ, we can use available data in Sierra to examine our library collections.

At the next ASAC in-person meeting, we will practice going through some of this data together.

To find Sierra reports for your library: uhls.org → Services → Reports → Ad Hoc Reports (or click [here](#))

We looked at 2 reports: "Circulation by Location Codes" and "Location Codes"; for our sample, we chose BERN and a time period of the past 12 months. The spreadsheet with these 2 reports can be found [here](#).

By looking at the raw data in this spreadsheet in columns E and J, we can figure out the difference between the percentage of circs and percentage of holdings per location code (in column L). Numbers highlighted in green have higher circulation in proportion to the percentage of items held in the collection, and numbers highlighted in red have lower circulation in proportion to the percentage of items held in the collection. In an ideal world, all these percentages would be 0%, or no difference between circulation and holdings (e.g. if a library's collection was 20% adult fiction, then 20% of their circulation would also be adult fiction). With this information, you can look at areas that are "overperforming" (green) and "underperforming" (red), so you may consider increasing your overperforming collection (e.g. DVDs) and weeding your underperforming collection (e.g. adult nonfiction) so that holdings better reflect circulation.

We can also look at collection turnover (in column K). For example, if you have 75 DVD checkouts in a year with 100 DVDs in the collection, there is a turnover rate of 0.75. A turnover rate of 1 or higher is considered good. For collections that are highlighted in green (over 1) you may want to consider higher spending, and less spending on collections in red.

In column M, we have the percentage of location code items that are currently checked out, showing what our patrons are enthusiastic about borrowing (in this case, juvenile series, juvenile graphic novels, etc.).

This isn't a Sierra report, but you may also consider keeping DOA statistics (i.e. tracking the checkouts of items after they are changed over from "new" in Sierra).

Books by Mail update

So far it's been slow but fairly steady. We have 6 patrons registered now, with a 100% return rate. If libraries want to handle this program for their patrons themselves, let UHLS know; we have lots of mailing bags available.

Great Give Back update

This will be our second year doing a system-wide Great Give Back. In October, libraries will be collecting hygiene items. Libraries have the option to either donate directly to local food pantries (we have a list of pantries we can share), or they can send items via courier to UHLS and we will give them to Food Pantries For The Capital District.

Outreach - what's working, what's not

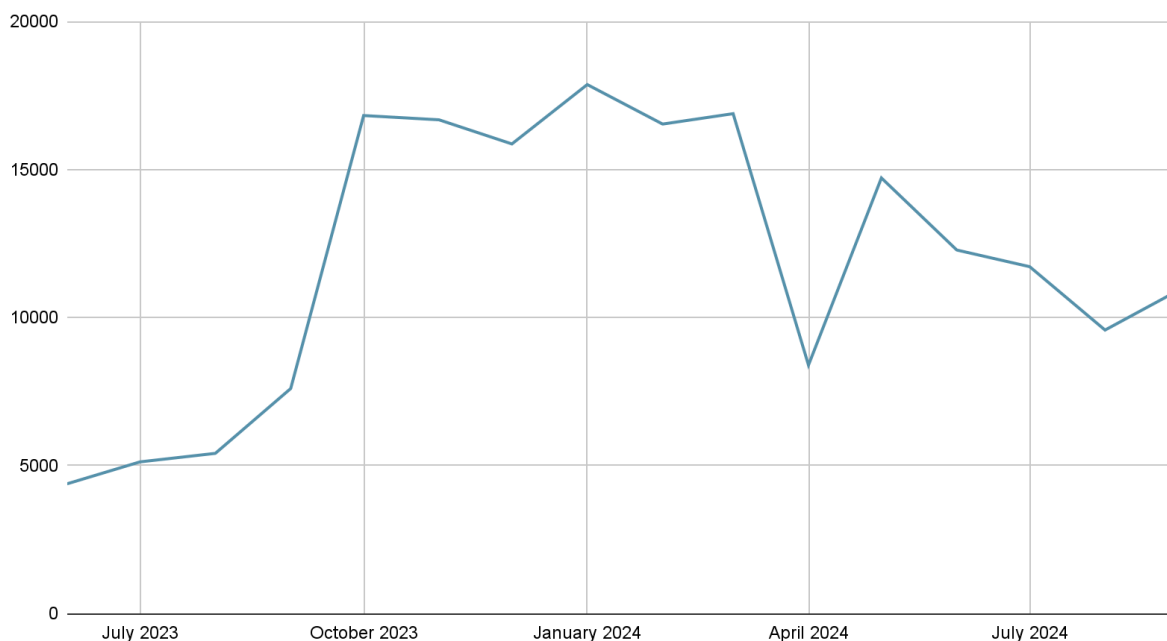
We have 2 initiatives from the Department for Aging that libraries can choose to promote: GoGoGrandparents (ridesharing for seniors), and Animatronic Pet Initiative (eligible seniors are able to acquire at no cost a lifelike dog or cat to provide the emotional benefits of pet ownership without the work).

Patron mapping: Judith and Anne have been using information from Sierra to map where patrons are physically located in given communities; this information can be separated by expired and non-expired patrons, or any metric that's in Sierra. When talking about library service areas, we want to know who we are reaching and who we are not. Looking at the map you may see there's no patrons in a certain area, and subsequently plan how to better reach that part of the community (e.g. for long-range plans). Reach out if you're interested in getting this information.

Overdrive update

No current issues with Overdrive. We're about a year into the new model of magazine circulation (once a patron subscribes to a magazine, it is automatically checked out to them every month), and we saw a huge increase in checkouts when this started. It's been great seeing the bump in circ.

Overdrive Magazine Checkouts



Open Forum

Alexis: contacted someone at DSS to do a staff training on Vulnerable Adult Services.

Chloe: digital services librarian is doing a program on how to shop online safely and protect account data. Requested information on local resources for downsizing.

Welcome to Sarah Kerr-Mace, the new director of MEND, and Alexis Mokler, the outreach librarian at EGRN

Next meeting: in-person, Thursday, December 12th

Location: TBD (either at UHLS or out somewhere in the community)