Toward Collaborative Print Retention

Background:
In order to serve the many member libraries who were faced with the loss of space and the subsequent need to downsize and discard print collections in a very short time, the NN/LM SEA formed a task force on print retention in the spring of 2010. The task force recommended, among other things, that a committee be formed to identify the potential for a collaborative print retention project in the region, develop educational resources on the topic of print retention, and recommend future directions.

Methods:
The ad-hoc committee met, brainstormed ideas, and developed a survey for resource and primary access libraries. The committee received responses from 128 libraries.

Conclusions:
An interesting and encouraging discovery was that almost one and a half times as many libraries expressed an interest in participating in a print retention project as were feeling pressure to give back space to their parent institution. This led the committee to conclude that space pressures and the resulting loss of print resources are a continuing concern for health sciences libraries. Even those who are not now facing pressure are interested in collaboration. Moreover, only a small number of the libraries were currently participating in print retention projects. The committee recommended that the NN/LM SEA, in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine, continue work to develop a collaborative print retention project and to educate members on the resources available.

Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>feeling pressure?</th>
<th>in coop retention program?</th>
<th>want to explore?</th>
<th>willing to take a longer survey?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authored By:
- Sue Woodson, John Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Steven Douglas, University of Maryland
- Karen Grigg, Duke University
- Sylvia McAphee, University of Alabama
- Jan Orick, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- Todd Puccio, Nova Southeastern University
- Martha Whaley, East Tennessee State University
- Sheila Snow-Croft, University of Maryland
- NN/LM SEA