Methodology

• Once project team was formed and roles assigned, the initial database was created coupling journal title with subjects, departments and subscription information
• Data was gathered by project team members for 990 core subscription titles (2009 cost information, cost per use, electronic usage statistics, Impact and Eigen factors, in-house publication statistics)
• All data was imported into MS Access database and customized surveys generated by department
• Trial run was conducted with 6 departments by management team visits to department heads informing them of the project and distributing sample surveys. Necessary changes resulting from their input were made.
• Surveys were distributed to full-time faculty with 2 weeks for requested returns. Collection box was set up and electronic returns accepted.
• Surveys were resent to departments with less than 15% response rate.
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Results

• 518 surveys were sent out with a return rate of 184 (36%)
• Review of analyses of aggregate responses allowed for further compilation of:
  • Listing of titles designated as most valuable by the department
  • Full listing of titles recommended for retention in the collection
  • Full listing of titles recommended for retention in the collection
  • Full listing of titles recommended for cancellation in the collection
  • Additional titles recommended for cancellation in situations of budget constraint
  • Faculty’s free-text comments and recommendations
  • Review of analyses of aggregate responses allowed for further compilation of:
  • Full listing of titles recommended for retention in the collection
  • Full listing of titles recommended for retention in the collection

Conclusion

• Microsoft Access facilitated collection of title-specific information internally and could also be used for creation of questionnaire to elicit faculty input
• Although use of the database made accomplishment of each stage easier, the project was still time-intensive and required the collaboration of multiple committee members at different times