Google Print in Academic Libraries Readiness to Adopt and Potential Impact on Operations and Services

Jaena Hollingsworth IMLS Fellow/University of Alabama jaena.hollingsworth@ua.edu Google Book Search: What is it?

Google Print to Google Book Search
Google Book Search Basics

Digitization and text-recognition
Keyword indexing and retrieval

Current State

10,000 books available, December 2005

Google Book Search: Some Concerns

Copyright Issues
 Lawsuits filed by Authors Guild and AAP

Google Book Search Examples

www.books.google.com
 Snippet View
 Sample Pages View
 Full Book View

Google Book Search: Some Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

- Natural language
- Availability of full text

Weaknesses

- Lack of classification
- Retrieval vs. Relevance
- Usefulness of works available

Competing Book Digitization Projects

Yahoo! and Internet Archive
 Open Content Alliance (OCA)
 Library of Congress
 Global Gateway
 American Memory Project
 World Digital Library

Google Book Search: What can libraries do about it?

Develop a response
 Mission Statements
 Collection Development Policies
 Librarians' Opinions
 Specific Operational Concerns
 Precedents

Mission Statements

Academic Library

 "...strives for excellence in advancing the University's teaching, research and outreach programs by anticipating information needs, providing access to resources, and promoting effective use of information by students, faculty, and staff."

Google

"Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful."

Business Models

 Academic Libraries

 Non-profit

 Google

 "Fortune 500" list for 2005 Google ranked 541
 Revenues for 4th quarter of 2005 \$1.919 billion

Collection Development Policies

- The right information for the right reader at the right time
- Factual accuracy
- Underrepresented or high-priority subject areas.
- Value-added enhancement, userfriendliness

Collection Development Policies

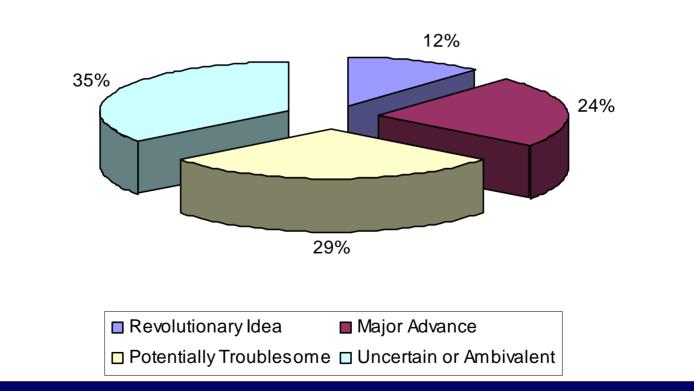
- Review of the site
- Authoritative author, sponsor, or producer
- Evidence of ongoing support
- Key resources rather than a comprehensive listing of all known resources.

Librarians' Opinions: Web Survey

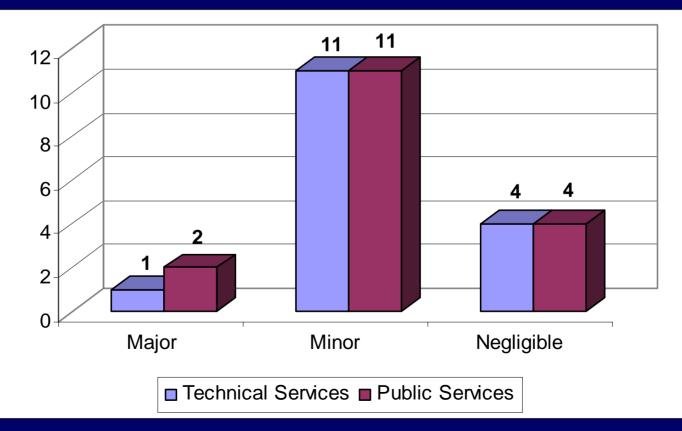
Questions asked

- Familiarity with Google Book Search
- Initial Reaction
- "Endorsement" by libraries
- Technical/Public Service Operations
- Support needed for users
- Difficulties/Positive Outcomes of GBS

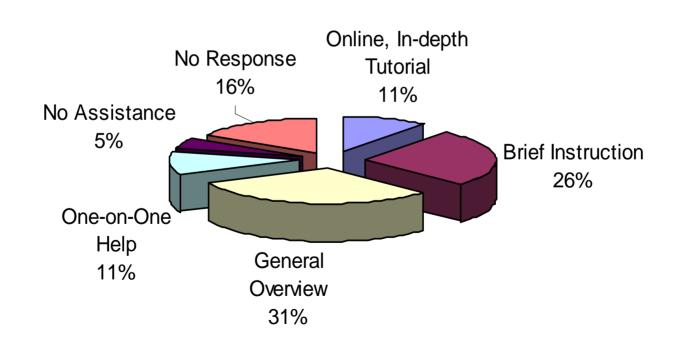
Librarians' Initial Reactions



Anticipated Effect of Google Book Search on Operations



Anticipated Aid for Users



Librarians' Opinions: Web Survey

Difficulties of Google Book Search
 Copyright/legal issues
 Positive outcomes of Google Book Search
 Access, Access, Access!

Librarians' Responses: Focus Group

Academic librarians

- Reference
- Business
- Education
- Cataloging
- Overall attitude: Wary

Librarians' Responses

- Organization
- Preservation
- Google's "secretiveness"
- Complicating the library's work
- Potential changes by Google
- Purpose of the project

Specific Concerns

 Interlibrary Loan Requests
 Requests for Materials from Remote Storage Facilities
 User Support

Potential Precedents

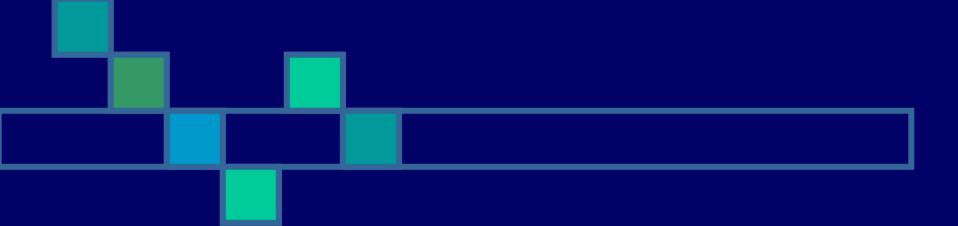
Electronic journals and databases
NetLibrary, e-books
Google Scholar

Recommendations

- Prepare for Google Book Search
- Incorporate or ignore?
- Provide link from library pages to Google Book search
- Develop explanatory and PR materials

Conclusion

- "The library is used to reacting to things it didn't plan"
- Change role from re-active to pro-active
- Libraries at forefront of digitization projects
- Corsortial agreements



Questions?

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