No, we don’t just read books all day... Developing Statistical Narratives/Infographics for Technical Services

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Repository Citation
Parsons, Amy B., "No, we don't just read books all day... Developing Statistical Narratives/Infographics for Technical Services" (2016). Library Faculty & Staff Scholarship. 7.
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No, We don’t just read books all day…
Developing Statistical Narratives/Infographics for Technical Services

Amy B. Parsons | Catalog/Metadata Librarian | Courtright Memorial Library Otterbein University

WHY do this?
Documenting and graphing makes our work applicable to other departments and shows value. “Graphs show the overall shape and patterns in data…” (Few, 2012)

Cataloging = DISCOVERABILITY!
Most people have no idea how a book becomes a library book. Explaining the sheer number of materials we handle in technical services can be eye opening.

Statistical Narratives
Cataloging = DISCOVERABILITY!

InfoGraphics: Combining visual, textual and quantitative information to highlight key facts. (Gardener, 2016)

How?

Statistical Narrative DEFINED:

Keeping a journal and especially note any irregularities or trends in any given month. Notes help you tell a story.

I used monthly numbers from Sierra and created graphs in Excel and Google Charts.

Create a “landing page” for your libraries’ numbers. A Libguide organized with tabs for each department where you can share your work.

Comparisons

Books, DVDs and Discard Volumes
November 6 year comparison

Annual Data

Annual Workflow Snapshot

Trends

Five Years of New Titles

Cataloging is only one story:

Cataloging

Resource Sharing Circulation/ILL

Community Engagement

Reference questions/appointments

Library Instruction/Classes

Digital Initiatives

Budget/Acquisitions

Stats Tell Stories

- Keep it lean and mean
- Identify your audience
- Use concrete examples (Fichter, 2014)

Works Cited

