CAMPBELL COUNTY

• PUBLIC LIBRARY •

Collection Assessment

May 2016

"Connecting you to big ideas wherever you are!"

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INTRODUCTION

Background

As of this writing, the biennial Collection Analysis/Assessment at Campbell County Public Library is entering its fourth edition. Previous versions have described the document as "a very useful tool when working with selectors and branch managers" or a "litmus test" for assessing our progress towards the goals we've assigned ourselves.

In a recent course on collection assessment presented by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, the process was defined simply as a way to examine the quality of a library collection, with the intention of using that information to inform collection development. That serves as the working definition for this document, and is very much the focus of the current assessment. The course also preferred the term "assessment" to "analysis" which is therefore how I've become used to referring to it.

The Current Assessment

Our mission statement says that "Campbell County Public Library enhances lifelong learning by providing popular materials, programs, and services to our community." Given that, it follows that our collection assessment must define collection quality primarily in light of how well it supports that mission.

The basic question that the assessment must answer then, is "How are we doing at providing popular materials, and materials that enhance lifelong learning, to our community and how can we do it better?" To determine that, I will look at a number of factors, developing a snapshot of both the collection and the community, then looking at various data concerning the two. I will look at areas of strength, and areas for improvement, and ultimately make recommendations for developing an even more valuable collection for our service community.

Finally, it should be noted that while this assessment may be reviewed by any number of people, it is intended primarily as a working document for Collection Services, to give us a better picture of the current state and utility of the collection, and provide insight into how to better focus our efforts over the next two years.

Michael Gregory, Collection Services Coordinator
Campbell County Public Library
April 2016

Influences on the Collection

There are a number of factors that currently shape the collection, and guide decisions made regarding it. Some of those factors can be quite immediate, such as changes to collection policy or procedure. Others are just as important, but farther removed, such as the mission and vision, the long range plan, and so on. The long range plan for the upcoming five years has unfortunately not been released at the time of this document, and therefore is not considered herein.

Several factors that the previous analysis predicted would be major influences failed to affect things in any dramatic way, at least in regard to our physical collections. This is of course, not due to any fault within that analysis, but hindsight is, as ever, 20/20.

The lawsuit, for example, did not alter collection development itself in any significant way, as far as the current collection goes. It has caused a delay with developing the South Branch collection, and quite possibly contributed at least slightly to some of our staff turnover.

The rise in popularity of digital materials has had no visible impact on either our physical circulation, or the physical collection. The current wisdom is that except in a few limited instances, digital materials are being used as an addition rather than a replacement by current library users, and that new users attracted by them are largely a separate patron group that would not be using the Library otherwise.

Demographic data is given a closer look in this assessment, and we see some areas where we might better serve particular age or language groups. It also clearly shows the need for a southern branch, though that is an argument that is really beyond the scope of this document.

Current Influences

Mission and Vision
Ideally, the mission and vision statements guide all aspects of Library service, including the collection. Our mission statement says that "Campbell County Public Library enhances lifelong learning by providing popular materials, programs, and services to our community." This guides us both in selecting the most popular and current fiction, as well as providing practical and accessible nonfiction geared towards lifelong learners. Our vision statement, "Connecting you to big ideas wherever you are!" likewise commits us to providing material that helps expand the horizons of our users.

Staffing
The past two years have seen substantial changes in the staff compliment for Collection Services. The Juvenile Collection Services Librarian position has been eliminated, and

the duties moved to the Collection Services Librarian, which has been a full time position for some time now. This gives the department two full time Librarians, which is really the minimum needed to effectively and efficiently divide up collection development duties. We've also gained a full time Collection Services Assistant, which has allowed the Librarians to spare more time for the collection by reducing the amount of time spent on basic acquisitions work. Frankly, collection development work has suffered in the past due to the overload of day to day tasks, such as running reports, monitoring holds, creating purchase orders, and so on. It's an invaluable asset to have additional staff dedicated specifically to helping with those tasks.

This ability to separate somewhat the acquisitions functions from the collection development functions has allowed us to develop more consistent and effective processes for handling the workflow of the department, and focus our attention where it will have the most effect. Going forward, this should allow us the time and space to develop more comprehensive and consistent strategies for collection development, including more structured and planned selection, better directed deselection, and generally taking a more proactive approach to managing the collection.

Selection
The Collection Services Coordinator selects all adult print as before, and has added popular DVDs to his selection duties. This has remedied two of the major problems facing the DVD collection; inconsistent title selection among the branches, and hesitation to purchase sufficient quantities. Popular DVDs were often purchased in ones and twos by individual selectors, leaving Collection Services to make up quantities much closer to the release date. This resulted in delays filling holds, delayed or cancelled orders due to stock issues with the vendor and so on.

After a period where our standing order plans were either downsized or allowed to become outdated, we are beginning once again to rely on them more heavily. One new plan has been put into place covering Adult Nonfiction, the large type plan has been expanded, a plan for adult fiction series titles is being considered, and all the plans are being reviewed for currency. Comprehensive and current standing order plans will be of great benefit as we focus our efforts on updating the collection and providing a greater number and variety of popular titles.

Juvenile print selection has been centralized within Collection Services for some time now, giving us good flexibility and consistency in developing the Juvenile collections. The median versus average publication dates for much of the juvenile collection seem to indicate that new material is being added at all three branches, though a relatively large number of older titles remain. This difference may indicate a disconnect between the selection and deselection processes that needs to be addressed.

Budgets and Spending
The Technical Services Manager reports that this budget year has been one of the most successful to date in terms of basic spending. Selection was, by and large, more structured and regular from month to month within Collection Services, and better communication and oversight helped keep the Selectors more on track than has sometimes been the case in the past.

Spending to fill problem holds and patron requests continued to increase as those areas were pursued more aggressively. More comprehensive and consistent internal selection guidelines have been recently put in place about when we will preference purchasing over ILL, should help stabilize these expenditures somewhat, but it will still increase as the number of holds and requests do, and the increase in branch print and AV budgets for the coming fiscal years are partially in response to this reality.

Deselection
The past three years have seen more regular monthly weeding become a part of the normal routine, primarily through the use of CollectionHQ. The software gave the Branch Managers the ability to generate weeding lists each month. Developing a regular monthly weeding process that is being followed and generally accepted has been very beneficial for the health of the collection.

There are, however, areas where CollectionHQ has also impeded our weeding progress somewhat. The CollectionHQ software focuses on circulation, and bases weeding recommendations primarily on circulation frequency, or circulation over time. This can allow outdated titles to remain in the system, through accruing just enough occasional circulation to miss the thresholds, an effect that certainly contributes to some of our problematic collection ages.

Another issue is that our Collection Development Policy states that we use the CREW Method as our deselection guideline, which is a very granular and comprehensive system that CollectionHQ cannot adequately mimic. The relative dismissal of CREW in favor of CollectionHQ during the past couple of years has left Collection Services with less ability to provide objective input, benchmarks or guidance for the weeding process.

As we approach the end of our CollectionHQ contract, and have made the decision not to renew it, Collection Services is once again in a position to take a more proactive hand in the weeding process, and guide it to closer alignment with our current policy. To that end, Collection Services will begin producing monthly weeding reports for each branch, that include titles which should be removed according to the CREW Method manual, as well as an excerpt of the relevant parts of the manual for easy reference. This should allow us to better target deselection to help with some of the problems identified through this assessment, such as collection age issues and low circulation per item in many nonfiction areas.

Core Collections
As our focus increases on our mission as a popular lending library, the need to develop a method for developing and maintaining a core title list becomes more obvious. Bluntly put, not every old title is clutter, or a needless drag on the collection age. Conversely, each one isn't a treasure which needs to be maintained. The need to balance increased deselection of older titles with the maintenance of classic titles will necessitate a core list going forward. The gap analysis contained herein generated a great deal of data that, while not included in this assessment (such as individual title lists) can be used to form the basis of our core collection lists, which can then be expanded going forward.

Policy and Procedure
A great deal of time and effort has gone into refining both policy and procedure over the past year in Collection Services. New and more comprehensive holds queries have been developed, and both the policies and manual have been revised and updated.

A number of these changes specifically affect the collection. Guidelines for purchasing videos and games, while avoiding undesirable content, were developed. Procedures for problem holds have been refined to the point where they are well under control, and a sustainable system is in place to monitor and address them.

Self-published titles is an area that has actually become a bigger problem than predicted in the previous analysis. The last two years has seen a sharp increase in the number of self-published nonfiction titles, often unsourced, poorly researched, poorly edited, and without any reviews, author credentials, or other information to vet them by. We have added wording to both the policy and guidelines addressing self-published works, and have begun managing requests for them in a more consistent and equitable manner.

Holds ratios were adjusted once more, with the 2:1 ratios being raised to 3:1. This alleviated a problem where we often found ourselves buying a second copy of an audiobook or music CD that was circulating normally, in order to fill a single patron hold.

Finally, the biggest change has been a reworking of our procedures for handling ILL and purchase requests. The two are no longer separated by the desk staff upon receipt, but rather sent to Collection Services as a generic "item request". This allows Collection Services to review them all together, and decide whether to address a given request as an ILL or as a purchase. The ability to review the requests in this manner allows us greater insight into patron needs, and more flexibility in responding to each patron. The end result is a greater degree of patron driven acquisition, as we get a more holistic picture of what our patrons are looking for.

Methods of Assessment

All methods of assessing a collection have varying strengths and weaknesses. Given that, it is normal to employ a variety of different assessment methods. Several methods, both qualitative and quantitative, were used in this assessment in order to build a reasonably complete picture of the current state of the Library's collection. All the methods used in this particular assessment were presented by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services in a six week online course earlier this year. Several of the specific resources and methods used were suggested specifically for this assessment by the course instructors; Alison Armstrong, Collection Management Librarian at Radford University, and Ginger Williams, Head Acquisitions Librarian at Texas State University.

Methodology

The following methods were used for the purposes of this collection assessment.

Comparison to Standards
In 2015 the Kentucky Public Library Association, in cooperation with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, released the fifth edition of the Kentucky Public Library Standards. That document has an entire section on library collections with criteria to meet three quality levels: essential, enhanced and exemplary. Comparisons of the Library's collection to those standards are included.

Gap Analysis
The American Library Association and its various divisions publish a number of recommended and 'best of the year' lists for public libraries. There are also a number of literary awards given out each year by them, and by other academic and literary organizations. A selection of the most prestigious and authoritative awards and lists are used as comparison points to assess the relative availability of high quality popular literature in our collection. Lists were also chosen in light of their value for informing a "core collection" list of fiction titles appropriate to a popular lending library.

The following awards and notable title lists were utilized:

- Notable Books for Adults
- Notable Children's Books
- Newbery Medal winners
- Caldecott Medal winners
- Pulitzer Award for Fiction
- National Book Award for Fiction

Age of the Collection
The CREW Method, published and maintained by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission has been a recognized standard for deselection of materials in public libraries for more than thirty years. The Library's Collection Development Policy specifies that CREW will be the manual used to guide weeding. The CREW Method is used in this assessment as a benchmark for presenting and discussing the age of the Library's collection.

Use Analysis
Both collection counts and circulation statistics were acquired from the Polaris ILS. These are broken down into the three branches, as well as different areas of the collection, generally by using the item statistical codes assigned in Polaris. An average circulation per item was calculated, providing a standardized method for comparing collections of different sizes at different branches.

Community Needs
While it can be difficult to quantify the needs of the community purely in terms of numbers, some basic assumptions can be made using demographic data, such as the age breakdown or primary languages spoken in a community. Data from the most recent Census figures available is used to provide a rough look at population centers, ages, and etc.

Patron Satisfaction
The Library recently conducted a patron satisfaction survey. One question focused on user satisfaction with the collection, and also allowed write-in comments concerning it. This information can be used to gain a very broad perspective on whether patrons are connecting with, and feeling supported by the collection.

Data Sources

Origins and Idiosyncrasies

Fiscal Year data
Unfortunately, the due date for this document precedes the end of the current fiscal year by several weeks. As of this writing, the current fiscal year is not yet complete, so no final numbers for FY2016 are available. Additionally, time must be allowed to work with the data once it is retrieved. To compensate for this, actual data from July 1 through March 31 of FY2016 has been used.

When necessary, the incomplete fiscal year data was then used to calculate a monthly average for the fiscal year. That average was consequently used in place of actual figures for the months of April, May and June. Finally, this was then combined with the actual data for July-March, resulting in the projected numbers included throughout the assessment. In the case of figures dealing with the amount of the collection added and withdrawn over the past year, the incomplete fiscal year was utilized as-is.

Overall Collection Size
The collection numbers produced by the Technical Services Manager are intended to be comprehensive and historical for reporting purposes. In order to compare like quantities, the section on overall collection size continues to use the collection sizes provided by the Technical Services Manager, since we know that those were the numbers used for overall collection size in the two previous analyses.

Collection Size by Format
Collection size by format numbers presented below were taken from the most recently available Technical Services Manager's monthly report. In this case, April of 2016. This most closely compares to the practice in the previous analyses of using the monthly report for the end of the fiscal year.

Available Item Counts
The item counts in the Use Analysis were provided by the Technical Services Manager, along with the circulation figures. As with the collection size data, this most closely mirrors the monthly and annual report figures.

The data used for items by stat code and age of the collection was produced in Polaris SimplyReports, by running item list reports filtered by assigned branch, collection, material type, stat code and circulation status. Queries only considered items with an actively available status at the time the data was extracted from Polaris. This includes the following item statuses:

- In
- Out
- Out-ILL
- Transferred
- Held

Items where the circulation status indicated that they were not currently available in the collection were excluded. These include:

- Lost
- Missing
- Withdrawn
- Claim Returned
- Claim Never Had
- Unavailable
- On-Order
- In-Process

This method was chosen to provide the most accurate snapshot possible of the materials currently available to our patrons, so the value of those materials to our patrons could be examined.

Unfortunately, while the previous collection analysis presented a similar array of collection numbers, presumably produced with SimplyReports, details about which item statuses were included or excluded, and other specifics about how the reports were run are not documented, so an exactly comparable set of numbers cannot be produced. This should be kept in mind when attempting to compare collection ages and item counts in the previous analysis to those presented in this current assessment.

Age of the Collection Data
Data concerning the average and median ages of the collection was calculated using currently available items, as presented in *Available Item Counts*, above. Including other item statuses would artificially skew the age of the collection as it currently sits on the shelf.

Circulation Data
All circulation data used in the assessment was provided by the Technical Services Manager, produced through queries of our ILS. Circulation data used runs from the beginning of the fiscal year to March 31st, as does much of the other data in this assessment.

Census Data
The most recent estimated demographic figures provided by the U.S. Census Bureau were used throughout. In some cases, estimated figures were released in 2015. In other cases, the most recent estimates were from 2014. Whenever necessity required the use of 2014 figures, they were only compared against other 2014 figures. In these cases, the partial 2015 data was ignored.

Survey Data
Campbell County Library conducted a survey which ran from August 6th, 2015 to October 8th, 2015. Results were received in both an online form, and via a paper form that was later transcribed into the online form. The question section regarding satisfaction with the collection, as well as comments specific to the contents of the collection, were reviewed for this assessment.

Other Data Sources
Data was also drawn for Kentucky Libraries Unbound, using data reports provided by the KLU Consortium Coordinator, and the "Reports" module of OverDrive Marketplace.

Data was taken from the Kentucky Annual Report of Public Libraries for the Campbell County Public Library District.

Finally, some data and data verification was performed through direct query of Campbell County Public Library's Polaris ILS, either through the "Reports and Notices" function, or through direct bibliographic and item record searches.

Formats and Categories

Formats

Similar to the previous analyses, the collection has been divided into eight general "formats" for the purposes of the assessment. These are: Adult fiction, Adult nonfiction, Juvenile fiction, Juvenile nonfiction, Audio, Video, Music, and Software.

Adult Fiction
This group includes all of the general adult fiction books, as well as any books shelved in the Western, Science fiction, Mystery, Kentucky Fiction, and Large Print fiction areas of the collection.

Adult Nonfiction
This group contains all adult books classified according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System, as well as adult Biography, Reference, Kentucky Reference, and Large Print nonfiction areas.

Juvenile Fiction
This group includes all books in juvenile fiction, as well as picture books, easy readers, board books, and juvenile books with media. Young adult fiction and YA graphic novels are included here as well, to conform to the standard reporting practice and the previous analyses.

Juvenile Nonfiction
This group contains all the juvenile and young adult books classified according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System, as well as juvenile and young adult biographies. The Library does not have a reference section specific to the juvenile and young adult collections.

Audio
This group contains all the adult, young adult and juvenile audiobooks, as well as spoken word recordings, such as comedy performances.

Video
This group contains all adult and juvenile video recordings on DVD, regardless of any rating restrictions. For purposes of the assessment, nonfiction video is not considered as a separate category.

Music
This group includes all adult and juvenile musical recordings on CD, regardless of any explicit lyric restrictions that may exist. The Library does not have separate musical recordings for young adults.

Software
This group includes all the video games, as well as the small amount of other software.

Categories/Stat Codes

The collection is also divided into several dozen smaller categories, represented by the item statistical codes assigned to the item record in Polaris, which allow for analysis on a more granular level. These have been used in some areas of this assessment, where simple division by format was still too broad.

Overall Collection Statistics

Size as of April 2016:
- Overall size (includes South Branch): 219,150
- Items added (1 Jul 2015 - 31 Mar 2016): 20,787
- Items deselected (1 Jul 2015 - 31 Mar 2016): 25,092
- Average publication date (currently available items): 2006
- Median publication date (currently available items): 2009
- Circulation (1 Jul 2015 - 31 Mar 2016): 824,795
- eMaterials circulation (1 Jul 2015 - 31 Mar 2016): 69,169

Collection Size Comparisons

Overall Collection Size

	2012 analysis	2014 analysis	2016 assessment
System	264,544	238,064	219,150
Cold Spring	83,124	78,332	73,136
Fort Thomas	84,238	67,421	62,729
Newport	85,773	79,468	72,790
South Branch	11,409	12,843	10,495

Note that the South Branch collection is largely excluded from this assessment. The focus is on considering materials currently available to our patrons. South Branch is included in the collection size numbers presented here, to allow a more direct comparison to the collection sizes from the previous analyses, which included South Branch.

Collection Size by Format

2016	System	Cold Spring	Fort Thomas	Newport	South Branch
Adult fiction	40,297	12,559	11,902	10,755	5,081
Adult nonfiction	34,971	11,639	10,086	12,095	1,151
Juvenile fiction	65,713	20,993	17,359	25,211	2,150
Juvenile nonfiction	23,396	8,255	5,630	9,329	182
Video	26,852	9,960	9,392	6,660	840
Audio	11,041	3,626	3,174	3,846	395
Music	15,186	5,412	4,510	4,568	696
Software	1,694	692	676	326	0
TOTAL	219,150	73,136	62,729	72,790	10,495

2014	System	Cold Spring	Fort Thomas	Newport	South Branch
Adult fiction	44,320	16,752	14,196	13,372	5,083
Adult nonfiction	41,945	13,754	12,061	16,130	2,782
Juvenile fiction	63,741	21,268	18,111	24,362	2,237
Juvenile nonfiction	25,476	8,452	6,576	10,448	810
Video	23,842	9,044	7,877	6,921	839
Audio	10,489	3,659	3,159	3,671	394
Music	13,990	4,843	4,868	4,279	698
Software	1,418	560	573	285	0
TOTAL	225,221	78,332	67,421	79,468	12,843

In comparing the collection size now to the size at the time of the last analysis, we can also look at the percent change in size for each format type. This is demonstrated in the table below.

Percent Change From 2014 Analysis	System	Cold Spring	Fort Thomas	Newport	South Branch
Adult fiction	-18%	-25%	-16%	-20%	0%
Adult nonfiction	-22%	-15%	-16%	-25%	-59%
Juvenile fiction	0%	-1%	-4%	3%	-4%
Juvenile nonfiction	-11%	-2%	-14%	-11%	-78%
Video	9%	10%	19%	-4%	0%
Audio	1%	-1%	0%	5%	0%
Music	3%	12%	-7%	7%	0%
Software	19%	24%	18%	14%	0%
TOTAL	-7%	-7%	-7%	-8%	-18%

Changes in Collection Size
The most obvious point in the current collection size data is the continuing trend towards a smaller collection. This is primarily due to intentional weeding, which has become more regular in the past few years. The decrease is especially evident in the adult fiction and adult nonfiction sections of the collection. Not coincidentally, the adult collection generally receives the lion's share of the attention where weeding is concerned. While weeding also occurs with the juvenile collection, it is apparent that for whatever reason, it perhaps isn't as stringent as the weeding for adult titles, thus a major reason for the relatively smaller decrease in collection size.

It is also evident in the tables above that Software has increased over the past two years. There are a number of reasons for this, both good and bad. We've devoted more money and attention to videogames, and have better and more consistent selection. There are also now more formats that must be purchased. The last analysis predated the adoption of newer generation game consoles, such as the Xbox One and PlayStation 4. Considering that we are now in a transitional period, where many games are releasing for both the new consoles and the legacy systems, it's possible that a given videogame will release in up to six different formats that are presently collected by the Library.

On a less positive note, the lost and overdue items among the videogames remains inordinately high, particularly at Newport. This means that often copies are purchased to fill holds, while the lost or overdue (and never returning) item is still active in Polaris. This tends to artificially inflate the collection size, when these items are included.

The effect of the project to weed out aged materials from the South Branch items in storage is also very clear to see in both adult and juvenile nonfiction.

Comparison to Standards

Section 3 of the Kentucky Public Library Standards lists criteria for library collections. While much of the section refers to cataloging standards, part 3.2 details criteria for materials.

KDLA Standards

To meet the ESSENTIAL standard, the Library must:
- Spend at least $2.25 per capita for collection expenditures,
- Build a non-print collection whose number of items is at least 10% of the total materials collection,
- Add and withdraw at least 3% of the circulating collection each year,
- Provide remote access to Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) databases,
- Provide materials for special population groups such as foreign language speakers, home school families, and adult new readers, and
- Provide access to electronic resources.

To meet the ENHANCED standard, the Library must:
- Spend at least $4.50 per capita for collection materials,
- Build a non-print collection whose number of items is at least 25% of the total materials collection,
- Provide remote access to databases to meet local demand for information, in addition to those provided by KYVL databases,
- Add and withdraw at least 4% of its circulating collection each year, and
- Provide materials in a variety of formats to insure equal access for customers of all ages with disabilities. Examples include large print books, unabridged audio books, closed-captioned/described/signed videos.

To meet the EXEMPLARY standard, the Library must:
- Spend at least $6.75 per capita for collection materials,
- Build a non-print collection whose number of items is at least 40% of the total materials collection, and
- Add and withdraw at least 5% of its circulating collection each year.

These criteria touch on five specific areas: per capita spending, percentage of non-print materials, database access, special patron groups, and collection maintenance.

Per Capita Spending
In the current fiscal year, CCPL has an overall collection budget of $730,000. According to the most recent estimates from the U.S Census Bureau (released July 1, 2015), the total population of Campbell County is 92,066. That leads to an overall per capita spending of $7.93, well over the $6.75 required for exemplary status.

Percentage of Non-Print Materials
CCPL's current collection is 54% non-print items. This well exceeds the 40% criteria for exemplary status.

Database Access
In addition to the 32 KYVL databases, CCPL also provides access to a number of other database resources covering topics ranging from standardized test help to automotive repair. This is more than sufficient to meet all criteria relating to database access.

Electronic Resources
One of the standards also specifies access to electronic resources such as eBooks. CCPL meets this requirement as a founding member of Kentucky Libraries Unbound, providing about 147,000 digital items to Campbell County residents.

Special Patron Groups
The standards specify that the library system provide collections suitable for special groups of patrons, such as those that speak foreign languages. CCPL provides Spanish language titles, both fiction and nonfiction large print, and instructional books useful to homeschooling families. All of this brings CCPL into alignment with this requirement.

Collection Maintenance
The current system-wide collection numbers 208,655 items (not counting South Branch). So far this fiscal year (as of 31 Mar 2016), 20,787 items were added to the collection and 25,092 items were weeded. This means that 10% of the Library's overall collection was added and 12% was withdrawn. This is double the requirement for an exemplary rating.

Gap Analysis

Six lists were used for this assessment: two were recommended title lists published by branches of ALA, four were lists of award winners.

The recommendation lists were 'Notable Books for Adults,' selected by the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of ALA's Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), and 'Notable Children's Books,' selected by ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC).

A popular materials library should hold a majority of the titles recommended in the most recent five year period. For titles appearing on the list for the five years before that, expectations are lower. These titles drop off quickly after five years due to waning interest over time and the aging of the nonfiction titles on the lists.

	2016-2012	2011-2007
Adult	95.2%	62.5%
Juvenile	86.8%	70.7%

The adult collection shows a good pattern. The Library owns nearly all of the listed titles for the most recent five-year period. While there is the expected drop off for the titles dating from the previous five-year period, the Library still owns more than half.

The results of the comparison with the juvenile lists are surprising. Only having 86.8% of the recommended juvenile titles seems too low. On the other hand, still having over 70% of the older titles may be a little high.

Overall the award winning titles have a longer shelf-life than the recommended titles. These titles are expected to maintain interest for a longer time period. They are also fiction titles, eliminating the problem of factual content becoming dated. For these reasons, a popular materials library can reasonably be expected to have most of the award winners for the most recent ten years in the collection.

Awards lists over ten years old do contain a number of classic titles that have withstood the test of time, and are an expected part of any public library collection (i.e. *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *Gone with the Wind*). A popular materials library should hold almost all of these, though the overall awards lists themselves may also contain many outdated works that were lauded in their day, but failed to exhibit the staying power of a true classic. Given this, it is prudent to consider the older awards lists more critically.

For this assessment the following lists were utilized:
- Newbery Medal winners
- Caldecott Medal winners

- Pulitzer Award for Fiction
- National Book Award for Fiction

Results

The Library currently owns 97.4% of the award-winning titles from the past decade, and 98.1% of the award-winning titles from earlier years that would be considered core classics. This puts us in an excellent place regarding both the best current literature and classic core titles that one wishes to maintain in a collection.

While it seemed unnecessary to include in this assessment, the gap analysis data about our ownership of each of the several hundred titles reviewed will be instrumental in planning for the creation and maintenance of core collection lists, and for general collection development.

Age of the Collection

Previous editions of the Kentucky Public Library Standards included criteria for measuring the age of a library collection in five-year segments of time. This is still a useful method for gaining an appreciation for the overall age of the collection. The assumption is that if deselection is being conducted in a consistent and systematic manner, the age of the collection should reflect this. The data below was produced looking only at currently available items.

Deselection is conducted on the basis of three criteria: publication date (primarily for nonfiction), circulation and condition. If an item is circulating well, its condition will deteriorate over time. Because of this, most titles that will not be discarded due to age, should eventually be discarded due to either low circulation or poor condition. There are a few usual exceptions to this rule, such as the first book in an active series or a classic work that is retained despite poor circulation.

System-wide Collection Age

	Before 2002	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	Total
Adult Nonfiction	6468	5470	10248	11425	33,611
Adult Fiction	4008	4842	8676	10971	28,497
Large Type	582	1061	2256	3247	7,146
YA Fiction	348	1792	3223	6364	11,727
YA Nonfiction	70	199	310	364	943
Juvenile Fiction	13991	10474	12115	13848	50,428
Juvenile Nonfiction	7242	5375	4454	4753	21,824
Adult Video	1849	4881	5995	8015	20,740
Juvenile Video	242	1058	1168	1338	3,806
Audio	766	2435	3806	3647	10,654
Music	3932	2429	3449	4465	14,275
Games	4	48	690	631	1,373
TOTAL	39,502	40,064	56,390	69,068	205,024
Percentage	**19.27%**	**19.54%**	**27.50%**	**33.69%**	
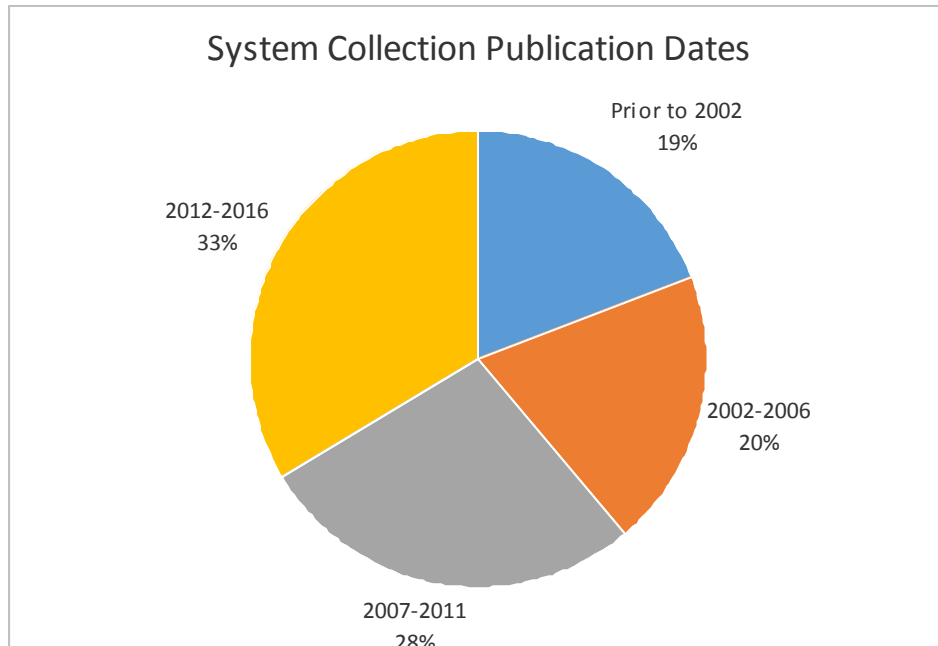
A visual representation of the 2016 data

The Kentucky Public Library Standards called for at least 30% of a library's overall collection to have been published within the last five years in order to receive an exemplary rating. As can be seen, CCPL's current available items exceed this standard, though not by any great amount. Nearly 61% of the Library's current collection was published in the last ten years. Overall, this indicates that the Library is doing well, but there is still room for improvement.

Work is particularly needed in the nonfiction categories, the juvenile nonfiction especially, which still lean more heavily towards older works than desirable. The most aged categories, however, are in fiction and music, which is appropriate since circulation is normally emphasized more than age in those two categories.

Recently, increased effort has gone into updating the adult and juvenile nonfiction. A quick comparative glance at the previous assessment shows that progress has been made. In 2014 the average publication date of the collection was listed as 2001, making the average age of the collection thirteen years. The median publication year at that time was 2002, giving a median collection age of twelve years. Regarding titles currently on the shelf, the average and median publication dates have moved to 2006 and 2009, respectively. This gives the collection an average age of ten years and a median age of seven.

Unfortunately, we don't know exactly what was included in the collection ages provided in the previous analyses, so those ages may reflect the inclusion of withdrawn or warehoused titles. A rough comparison, however, stills seem to show a great deal of improvement over the past two years.

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Having looked at the system-wide collection, it is also prudent to examine each branch individually to look for any deviation from the overall trends.

Cold Spring

	Before 2002	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	Total
Adult Nonfiction	2089	1779	3664	4163	11,695
Adult Fiction	1,237	2,109	3,548	3,667	10,561
Large Type	91	249	806	1,130	2,276
YA Fiction	70	401	1,031	2,240	3,742
YA Nonfiction	11	40	104	107	262
Juvenile Fiction	4,775	3,660	3,864	4,579	16,878
Juvenile Nonfiction	2,688	2,014	1,592	1,640	7,934
Adult Video	800	2,085	2,408	2,860	8,153
Juvenile Video	117	549	477	397	1,540
Audio	269	938	1,281	1,151	3,639
Music	1,462	1,079	1,298	1,506	5,345
Games	4	28	281	288	601
TOTAL	13,613	14,931	20,354	23,728	72,626
Percentage	**18.74%**	**20.56%**	**28.03%**	**32.67%**	
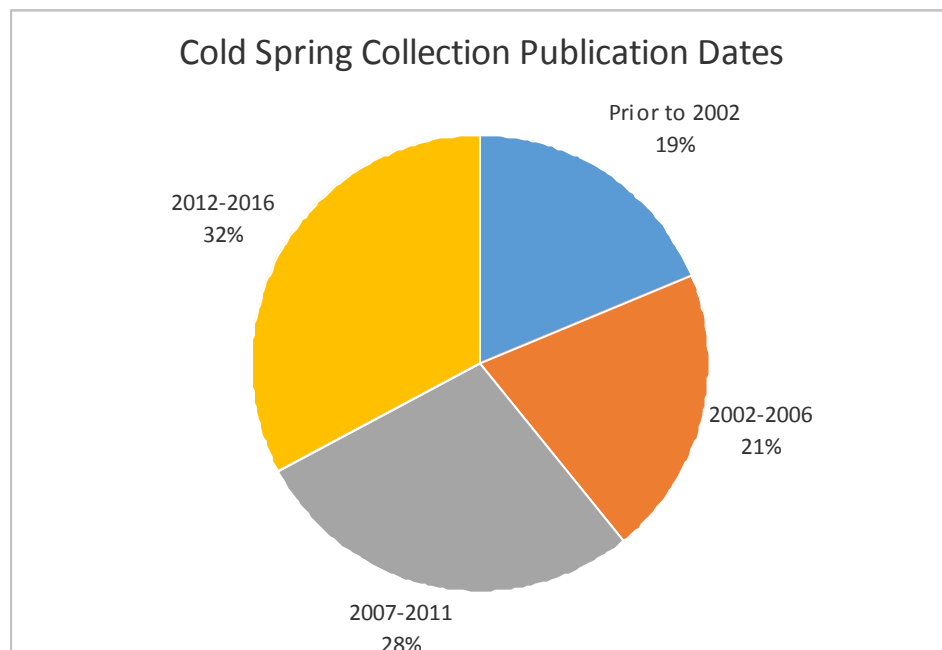
A visual representation of the 2016 data

The collection at the Cold Spring branch is just barely older than the overall Library collection. One percentage point less of the collection was published in the last five years, while the number at ten years or less is only a half a percentage point below the

system overall. Cold Spring's numbers essentially mirror the system numbers. More deselection in nonfiction, and replacement with equivalent but current titles, would lead to improvement overall.

Fort Thomas

	Before 2002	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	Total
Adult Nonfiction	1564	1666	2971	3904	10,105
Adult Fiction	1,272	1,436	2,626	3,961	9,295
Large Type	234	440	844	1,107	2,625
YA Fiction	71	290	547	1,885	2,793
Juvenile Fiction	3,026	2,330	4,162	4,859	14,377
YA Nonfiction	6	24	41	64	135
Juvenile Nonfiction	1,636	1,100	1,111	1,475	5,322
Adult Video	669	1,682	2,291	2,970	7,612
Juvenile Video	92	298	359	443	1,192
Audio	202	666	1,016	1,278	3,162
Music	1,488	548	939	1,471	4,446
Games	0	15	337	250	602
TOTAL	10,260	10,495	17,244	23,667	61,666
Percentage	**16.64%**	**17.02%**	**27.96%**	**38.38%**	
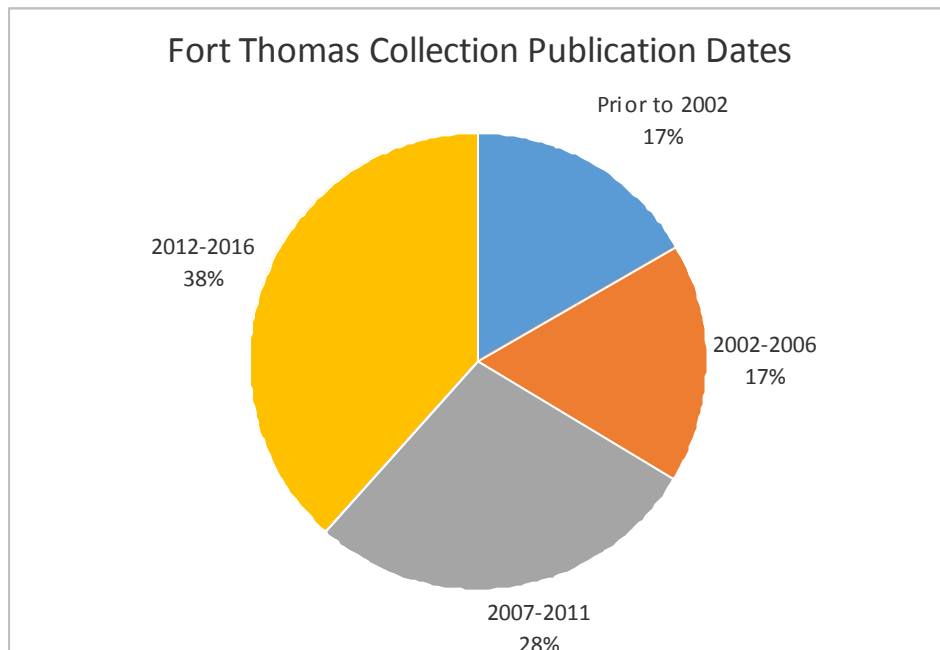
A visual representation of the 2016 data

The Fort Thomas collection is doing best among the three branches. The number of items published in the last five years is approximately four and a half percentage points higher than the Library collection overall. The number published in the last ten years is

five percentage points higher than the overall system. This is primarily due to the aggressive deselection of older nonfiction materials. The age span in both adult and juvenile nonfiction is quite a bit better than the other branches.

Newport

	Before 2002	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	Total
Adult Nonfiction	2815	2025	3613	3358	11,811
Adult Fiction	1,499	1,297	2,502	3,343	8,641
Large Type	257	372	606	1,010	2,245
YA Fiction	207	1,101	1,645	2,239	5,192
YA Nonfiction	53	135	165	193	546
Juvenile Fiction	6,190	4,484	4,089	4,410	19,173
Juvenile Nonfiction	2,918	2,261	1,751	1,638	8,568
Adult Video	380	1,114	1,296	2,185	4,975
Juvenile Video	33	211	332	498	1,074
Audio	295	831	1,509	1,218	3,853
Music	982	802	1,212	1,488	4,484
Games	0	5	72	93	170
TOTAL	15,629	14,638	18,792	21,673	70,732
Percentage	**22.10%**	**20.70%**	**26.57%**	**30.64%**	
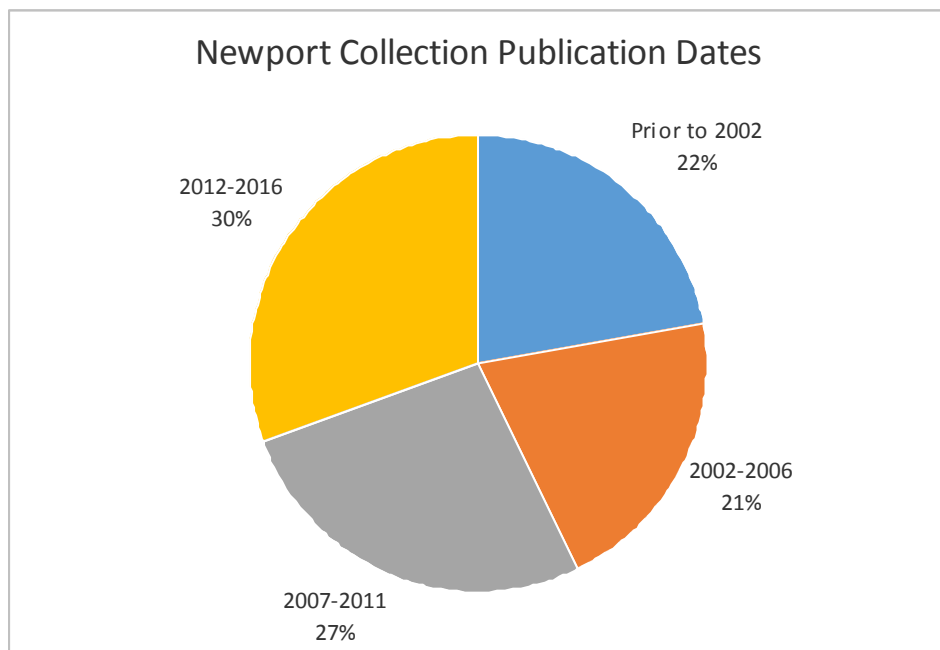
A visual representation of the 2016 data

The figures from the Newport branch show that it has the most room for improvement. The number of items published in the last five years is almost three full percentage

points lower than the system overall. The number from the last ten years is almost four percentage points lower.

While other areas of the collection could use attention, the juvenile nonfiction at the Newport Branch is especially aged, skewing the numbers even lower. Consider the following comparison to the juvenile nonfiction collection at Fort Thomas:

	Before 2002	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	Total
FT Juvenile Nonfiction	1,636	1,100	1,111	1,475	5,322
NW Juvenile Nonfiction	2,918	2,261	1,751	1,638	8,568
Increase: FT to NW	+78%	+105%	+57%	+11%	+60%

Two things are immediately apparent. The Newport juvenile nonfiction collection is substantially larger than the Fort Thomas juvenile nonfiction collection, but the vast majority of that difference consists of titles over ten years old.

CREW and Item Ages

The CREW Method specifies areas of the collection where currency is more necessary, as the content becomes obsolete more quickly than in other areas of the collection. Looking at this is important when judging the age of a collection. CREW's shelf life determinations can indicate whether or not more work needs to be done to remove aging content, one of the three primary factors in deselection.

The areas are listed below according to the CREW "shelf life," meaning how long an item can circulate before it likely becomes obsolete and should be removed from the collection. Areas are defined according to their range in the Dewey Decimal Classification System. The relevant portion of the CREW standard is also quoted.

When examining the overall age of the items currently on the shelf, the average publication date is frequently mentioned in the data below. However, averages can be skewed by a handful of items at one extreme or the other. In the case of a fairly current collection, a few old classics can bring down the average considerably, making the collection appear much older than it is. The opposite is also true. A few extremely recent titles can make an old collection appear deceptively more current than it really is.

For this reason, the median publication date is also taken into account. When the items in a collection are arranged in chronological order, the median date is at the midpoint of that range, with an equal amount of older and newer items on either side.

In general, the closer the median and average dates are, the more accurate the average number would be as a representation of the collection age. As the median skews towards either older or more recent, it is indicative of how deceptive the average is in each case. The more recent the median, the more current the titles in the collection. While the older the median, the more aged the collection is in truth.

Shelf life: 1-2 Years

004 – Computers: "Works on computers are seldom useful after three years. Works on hardware and software have an even shorter life span (1-2 years), but may be kept on hand longer if there is strong community demand."

	Pre-2014	2014-2016
Cold Spring	25	11
Fort Thomas	19	10
Newport	21	13

Almost two-thirds of the Library's computer books are moving past the two-year mark. This means that a great deal of replacement will be needed in the coming year.

610s – Medicine and Health: "Weed ruthlessly when it comes to current medical practices. Patrons rely on up-to-date information and outdated information can be dangerous. Keep only the current year plus the previous year (one reference, one circulating) of *Physician's Desk Reference* (PDR) and other prescription and over-the-counter drug directories, replacing when new editions become available. Do not keep drug guides that are more than three years old regardless."

PDR	Pre-2015	2015-2016
Cold Spring	1	1
Fort Thomas	1	1
Newport	1	1

The Library system is on target with the PDR, with no more than two years' worth on the shelf at any location.

610s	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2010	2010
Fort Thomas Adult	2010	2010
Newport Adult	2010	2010
Cold Spring Juvenile	2008	2008
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2011	2010
Newport Juvenile	2007	2007
Cold Spring Young Adult	2009	2009
Fort Thomas Young Adult	2008	2008
Newport Young Adult	2010	2010

Despite intensive weeding in adult nonfiction, there is still some room for improvement in the health and medicine category. The most up-to-date portion of this collection is actually the juvenile collection at Fort Thomas. The other juvenile and young adult collections, however, contain more dated material than the adult collections.

910s – Geography and Travel: "Guidebooks (such as the Fodor series or Mobil travel guides) are outdated within a year or two. Keep no longer than three years."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2013	2011
Fort Thomas Adult	2013	2010
Newport Adult	2010	2009
Cold Spring Juvenile	2003	2004
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2006	2006
Newport Juvenile	2004	2004

When comparing the median publication dates, it is evident that the Cold Spring and Fort Thomas adult collections are doing better than the average would indicate. In both cases a few classic travelogue titles are skewing the average. Newport has some room for improvement in the adult collection, and all of the juvenile collections are well behind the curve.

Shelf Life: 3-5 Years

306 – Culture and Institutions: "This section includes books on marriage, family life, and sexuality. Discard as interest in the author or title wanes. Unless a book has an historical approach, the topic is usually outdated within five years."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2009	2008
Fort Thomas Adult	2012	2010
Newport Adult	2009	2008
Cold Spring Juvenile	2013	2011
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2010	2008
Newport Juvenile	2005	2005

The Cold Spring juvenile and Fort Thomas adult collections are in the best shape, with the others needing some work to eliminate dated titles and replace them with something newer. The Newport juvenile collection is particularly dated.

320 – Political Science: "For books on current political topics, weed within five years of publication."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2012	2011
Fort Thomas Adult	2012	2011
Newport Adult	2011	2008
Cold Spring Juvenile	2009	2008
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2008	2008
Newport Juvenile	2005	2005

The adult collections have been steadily improving, though more work is needed. The juvenile collections are a little more dated, particularly the one in Newport.

323 – Immigration and Citizenship: "Update items about how to obtain citizenship and study guides for citizenship tests as new editions become available."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2013	2009
Fort Thomas Adult	2012	2010
Newport Adult	2011	2009

Only the adult collections are under consideration in this specific category, as the juvenile collections do not contain citizenship study guides and related material.

The median dates indicate that the collections are not as dated as they might initially appear, though the area should be reviewed for older titles, especially at Newport, whose median is reaching the five-year point.

330 – Economics: This includes information on personal finance, real estate investing and tax laws. "Currency of information is the most critical factor in this area... Update items available in revised editions." CREW mandates replacement after three years.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2010	2010
Fort Thomas Adult	2012	2011
Newport Adult	2009	2008
Cold Spring Juvenile	2012	2011
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2001	2006
Newport Juvenile	2001	2003

None of the branch collections meets the three-year mark, though some areas are close to or within a five year threshold. The Fort Thomas and Newport juvenile collections could benefit from some aggressive deselection of aged items.

340 – Law: "Replace when more current material becomes available. **Never** keep superseded editions, even for heavily used topics like divorce or bankruptcy. Keep only the current edition or the edition approved for use in your community of the Uniform Building Code and similar code books for specific areas of construction... Study guides for law school should not be kept longer than 3 years..."

Once again the juvenile collections were not considered, as they contain very little relevant to this category.

340s (Overall)	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2011	2010
Fort Thomas Adult	2013	2011
Newport Adult	2012	2010

This area of the collection also includes works such as histories of various branches of government, so the overall age of the collection may be a shade off the three-year mark. Given this consideration, the collections at the branches appear to be doing well as far as currency is concerned.

340s (Legal Advice)	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2013	2011
Fort Thomas Adult	2014	2013
Newport Adult	2012	2011

Given the higher median publication dates, these collections are in decent shape. However, the average date is being skewed by some older titles that need evaluating for deselection and replacement. This is especially true at Newport, which also has the lowest median date.

As for the category of law school study/test guides, the system appears to only have two items—one at Cold Spring and one at Newport. Cold Spring's title is from 2011, and Newport's is from 2009. As such, they are both in need of withdrawal and possible replacement.

350 – Public Administration: "Standard books, should be replaced as new editions become available… replace when state and federal administrations change or constitutional reforms occur." Aside from classics and military history, these titles should be discarded after five years.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2010	2009
Fort Thomas Adult	2013	2011
Newport Adult	2009	2007
Cold Spring Juvenile	2011	2011
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2008	2007
Newport Juvenile	2007	2004

The age of these collections are variable across the system, with the Fort Thomas adult collection apparently meeting the five-year mark. The Newport juvenile collection contains a number of very outdated titles on military equipment, in particular.

370 – Education: "Discard all outdated theories; check with a teacher or principal if in doubt. Discard books about getting an education—college guides and entrance examination books—after five years."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2012	2010
Fort Thomas Adult	2011	2010
Newport Adult	2010	2009
Cold Spring Juvenile	2005	2006
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2014	2009
Newport Juvenile	2003	2004

While the juvenile collections in this category are relatively less sensitive to aging than the adult collections, they still shouldn't be ignored. Books of educational projects and activities for children must not be allowed to become too dated, as required materials may become difficult to obtain, and dated projects hold little interest. Though the Fort Thomas juvenile collection shows signs of recent deselection, the Cold Spring and Newport juvenile collections need more work.

Shelf Life: 5-10 Years

360 – Social Services: "This broad category includes drug and alcohol education, social problems and issues, true crime and criminology, and other social welfare issues. Titles that deal with popular social issues should be weeded based on age (copyright date) and popularity. Watch for social welfare topics that are changing rapidly, such as socialized medicine and end-of-life decisions, environmental issues, and dealing with addictions."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2009	2007
Fort Thomas Adult	2011	2009
Newport Adult	2009	2006
Cold Spring Juvenile	2009	2008
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2008	2006
Newport Juvenile	2005	2004

Overall, the Library collections in this area are reasonably up-to-date. The numbers skew a little lower in the adult collections because of true crime, and in the juvenile collections because of disaster stories. The one outlier is the Newport juvenile

collection, which is brought down by a large number of aged vocational guides that need to be removed and updated.

395 – Etiquette: "Basic titles can be kept until new editions are available. Discard books for specific situations… as the illustrations become dated or acceptable practices change."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2007	2005
Fort Thomas Adult	2009	2010
Newport Adult	2007	2006
Cold Spring Juvenile	2001	2004
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2007	2004
Newport Juvenile	2003	2002

In addition to traditional etiquette, the adult collections also contain wedding planning guides. These especially need regular review as practices and fashions change rapidly.

Juveniles, generally-speaking, are rapid adopters of communications technology, so the juvenile collections should be reviewed to ensure they cover communication media in use by children today. A guide to texting etiquette would be more appropriate than a book on letter writing or even email, for example. Even at a threshold of ten years, it appears clear that there are some outdated titles in this area, particularly in the juvenile areas. The Fort Thomas adult collection appears to be well on target, however, and the adult sections at the other two branches aren't exceptionally outdated overall.

400 – Language: "Discard… outdated books of grammar… Replace stock dictionaries for major foreign languages… and any other languages being studied or spoken in the community on a rotating basis to ensure currency." CREW mandates replacement after ten years.

Only the adult collection is analyzed here because the juvenile collection includes all of the juvenile foreign language titles, such as *El Gato Ensombrerado* (aka *The Cat in the Hat*). This makes analyzing the actual juvenile nonfiction titles in this area nearly impossible.

	Pre-2007	2007-2016
Cold Spring Adult	36	60
Fort Thomas Adult	44	53
Newport Adult	20	65

Following the CREW mandates, there should be very few titles more than ten years old in the collection. Both Cold Spring and Newport are in line with this, as only a third of their respective collections in this area are older than ten years. The collection at Fort Thomas appears in need of some updating.

500 – Natural Sciences: "Carefully evaluate anything over five years old. Pay particular attention to the physics, environment, and astronomy sections."

500s overall	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2008	2006
Fort Thomas Adult	2008	2007
Newport Adult	2009	2008
Cold Spring Juvenile	2005	2005
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2006	2004
Newport Juvenile	2006	2005

Though there is some room for improvement, the adult collections aren't overly dated. The juvenile collections, however, would benefit from systematic deselection and replacement with updated titles.

510 – Mathematics: "Replace older materials on algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus with revised editions. Discard books that focus on outdated teaching methods and techniques, such as books that feature 'new math' or that focus on slide rules as the primary method for making calculations." In general, CREW mandates replacement after ten years.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2007	2006
Fort Thomas Adult	2008	2007
Newport Adult	2009	2008
Cold Spring Juvenile	2003	2005
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2004	2004
Newport Juvenile	2006	2005

Again, there is still some room for improvement, but the adult collections doing reasonably well. The juvenile collections are lagging behind somewhat. They should be checked for overall dated appearance, dated language, and so on.

560 – Paleontology: CREW mandates review for outdated information after five years.

With only about eighteen titles in the entire system, the adult collection in this area is really too small to warrant analysis.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Juvenile	2004	2004
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2007	2004
Newport Juvenile	2006	2005

The juvenile collection is aged, and not close to hitting the five-year mark recommended by CREW. This area needs new and additional titles.

570 – Life Sciences: Generally, CREW mandates review for outdated information after seven years—five years for genetics, human biology and evolution. "Weed titles on ecology that appear dated, even if the information is still accurate."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2010	2009
Fort Thomas Adult	2010	2009
Newport Adult	2010	2008
Cold Spring Juvenile	2004	2005
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2006	2006
Newport Juvenile	2004	2004

Clearly, work has been done recently to bring the adult collections more up-to-date, but the juvenile collections are again lagging far behind. They could benefit from systematic deselection and replacement.

630, 635, 636 – Agriculture, Horticulture, Pets: Generally, CREW mandates review for outdated information after five years.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2008	2006
Fort Thomas Adult	2009	2007
Newport Adult	2006	2004
Cold Spring Juvenile	2004	2005
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2007	2006
Newport Juvenile	2006	2005

The adult collections have some room to improve. Looking at the records in Polaris, it appears that the gardening and dog training titles should be reviewed for outdated material in particular. While the juvenile collections in this area are less sensitive to aging than the adult titles, they are also older, and should be reviewed for dated information and appearance.

640 – Home Economics: "Be ruthless in weeding old cookbooks." CREW mandates review for outdated information after five years, with particular emphasis on the waning popularity of celebrity chefs and fad diets, as well as sewing books with dated projects.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2009	2008
Fort Thomas Adult	2010	2009
Newport Adult	2009	2007
Cold Spring Juvenile	2004	2005
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2009	2007
Newport Juvenile	2006	2006

Ruthlessly weeding cookbooks is as applicable in the juvenile collections as it is in the adult collections. The Cold Spring and Newport juvenile collections are particularly in need of review.

649 – Child Rearing: CREW mandates review for outdated information after five years.

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2007	2006
Fort Thomas Adult	2009	2007
Newport Adult	2006	2006

This is not a topic found in juvenile collections, so only adult collection data is included here. The collections are old enough to warrant a review.

720 – Architecture: "Generally discard home design books after ten years regardless of circulation. Be aware of changes in building codes. Evaluate books on trends…, that feature celebrity designers…, or that are based on television shows… when interest has waned."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2006	2005
Fort Thomas Adult	2010	2007
Newport Adult	2008	2007
Cold Spring Juvenile	2006	2004
Fort Thomas Juvenile	2007	2005
Newport Juvenile	2004	2005

The Fort Thomas adult collection appears to be doing okay, though all the collections should be reviewed, especially the collection at Cold Spring. This is another topic where the juvenile collections are less sensitive to aging issues, but they are old enough to warrant review.

737 – Numismatics: "Keep stamp and coin catalogues up-to-date, replacing books that provide market valuations and price guides after 5 years. Keep a current edition and one previous edition of price guides that are updated yearly."

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2014	2014
Fort Thomas Adult	2014	2014
Newport Adult	2014	2014

This is another collection mostly limited to adults. All three branches appear to be addressing the issue of aging price guides, and have brought this area of the collection up-to-date.

770 – Photography: CREW mandates review for outdated information after five years. "Check closely for outdated techniques and especially outdated equipment…"

	Median Publication Date	Average Publication Date
Cold Spring Adult	2012	2011
Fort Thomas Adult	2012	2010
Newport Adult	2013	2012

This collection also appears to be relatively up to date at all three branches, though because of ongoing changes in the technology, digital photography books in particular should really be reviewed carefully every two years.

Young Adult Fiction: One of the few portions of the fiction collection where CREW gives specific age cut-offs is in young adult fiction. CREW states: "Anything older than five years should be kept only if it is circulating well; classics should be replaced with newer hardback or paperback editions."

	Pre-2012	2012-2016
Cold Spring	1517	2239
Fort Thomas	907	1881
Newport	2956	2235

Fort Thomas has the most recent collection, while Newport's is rather dated and should be reviewed for deselection.

Use Analysis

Another primary measure of the utility and suitability of a library collection is how well it is being used by library patrons, as represented by circulation statistics. The circulation has been broken down to the most granular level available, utilizing the statistical codes from the Polaris item records. The statistics that follow show circulation for July 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016. The following table shows the breakdown for all areas of the Library's collection.

Stat Code	Cold Spring			Fort Thomas			Newport		
	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item
Adult 000-099	276	613	2.22	272	359	1.32	334	392	1.17
Adult 100-199	567	1,280	2.26	723	1,176	1.63	672	1,063	1.58
Adult 200-299	800	1,527	1.91	648	1,209	1.87	640	1,216	1.90
Adult 300-399	2,142	2,973	1.39	2,273	2,501	1.10	3,101	2,640	0.85
Adult 400-499	103	199	1.93	107	172	1.61	114	90	0.79
Adult 500-599	435	708	1.63	471	598	1.27	495	382	0.77
Adult 600-699	3,418	6,222	1.82	2,522	4,809	1.91	3,583	4,237	1.18
Adult 700-799	1,746	3,433	1.97	1,269	2,183	1.72	1,234	1,896	1.54
Adult 800-899	472	594	1.26	503	594	1.18	969	723	0.75
Adult 900-999	1,558	2,294	1.47	1,290	2,203	1.71	1,681	1,826	1.09
Adult Audio CD	2,940	8,374	2.85	2,621	6,569	2.51	3,012	4,931	1.64
Adult Audio Restricted	4	11	2.75	0	0	0.00	6	7	1.17
Adult Biography	1,432	2,044	1.43	1,309	2,410	1.84	1,596	2,074	1.30
Adult DVD	6,323	71,784	11.35	6,258	68,690	10.98	4,793	56,612	11.81
Adult DVD Restricted	2,705	39,231	14.50	2,645	39,442	14.91	1,830	31,142	17.02
Adult Fiction	9,327	21,018	2.25	8,785	19,812	2.26	7,907	12,092	1.53
Adult Music CD	5,066	13,163	2.60	4,854	10,184	2.10	4,366	9,103	2.08
Adult Music Restricted	269	707	2.63	303	984	3.25	306	1,162	3.80
Adult Mystery	4,299	9,232	2.15	4,038	9,794	2.43	3,063	5,169	1.69
Adult Science Fiction	849	1,441	1.70	501	960	1.92	757	1,034	1.37
Adult Software	7	8	1.14	1	0	0.00	6	16	2.67
Adult Western	215	369	1.72	91	139	1.53	99	99	1.00
Board Game	56	97	1.73	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
Game	838	6,127	7.31	808	6,166	7.63	536	2,809	5.24
Juvenile 000-099	60	219	3.65	82	266	3.24	217	156	0.72

Stat Code	Cold Spring			Fort Thomas			Newport		
	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item
Juvenile 100-199	99	212	2.14	76	117	1.54	194	125	0.64
Juvenile 200-299	156	202	1.29	70	121	1.73	173	102	0.59
Juvenile 300-399	825	1,005	1.22	768	734	0.96	1,626	1,035	0.64
Juvenile 400-499	205	236	1.15	92	184	2.00	288	150	0.52
Juvenile 500-599	2,215	4,299	1.94	1,887	3,125	1.66	2,553	2,088	0.82
Juvenile 600-699	1,103	2,072	1.88	656	1,250	1.91	1,058	1,226	1.16
Juvenile 700-799	1,213	1,766	1.46	811	1,388	1.71	1,413	1,172	0.83
Juvenile 800-899	413	439	1.06	320	287	0.90	470	290	0.62
Juvenile 900-999	1,452	1,631	1.12	1,067	1,309	1.23	1,655	882	0.53
Juvenile Audio CD	545	886	1.63	610	995	1.63	585	551	0.94
Juvenile Biography	1,264	1,797	1.42	781	633	0.81	1,208	874	0.72
Juvenile Board Books	1,197	4,891	4.09	1,179	5,086	4.31	1,507	3,287	2.18
Juvenile Book with Cassette	0	0	0.00	27	47	1.74	0	0	0.00
Juvenile Book with CD	230	631	2.74	55	146	2.65	64	172	2.69
Juvenile DVD	1,773	29,820	16.82	1,363	22,619	16.60	1,508	15,506	10.28
Juvenile Easy Readers	11,111	33,065	2.98	10,211	35,219	3.45	13,002	23,577	1.81
Juvenile Fiction	6,547	15,139	2.31	5,554	15,993	2.88	6,741	10,169	1.51
Juvenile Music CD	471	879	1.87	337	621	1.84	547	1,337	2.44
Kentucky Fiction	148	160	1.08	60	62	1.03	120	77	0.64
Kentucky Nonfiction	468	721	1.54	310	543	1.75	770	411	0.53
Large Print Fiction	3,211	8,814	2.74	2,959	8,745	2.96	2,462	5,848	2.38
Large Print Nonfiction	230	359	1.56	217	482	2.22	189	309	1.63
Little Library Bag	5	3	0.60	5	2	0.40	5	0	0.00
Magazine	2,895	2,208	0.76	3,229	2,727	0.84	2,919	2,647	0.91
Reference	385	8	0.02	301	1	0.00	270	6	0.02
Reference Kentucky	58	0	0.00	90	8	0.09	313	9	0.03
YA 000-099	8	4	0.50	9	0	0.00	13	11	0.85
YA 100-199	13	17	1.31	13	16	1.23	36	55	1.53
YA 200-299	10	3	0.30	6	6	1.00	12	10	0.83
YA 300-399	46	34	0.74	77	61	0.79	169	106	0.63
YA 400-499	2	8	4.00	0	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
YA 500-599	9	34	3.78	8	1	0.13	15	16	1.07
YA 600-699	29	34	1.17	34	56	1.65	84	71	0.85
YA 700-799	36	132	3.67	45	105	2.33	100	101	1.01

Stat Code	Cold Spring			Fort Thomas			Newport		
	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item
YA 800-899	25	31	1.24	27	23	0.85	62	64	1.03
YA 900-999	52	64	1.23	22	11	0.50	44	31	0.70
YA Audio CD	423	548	1.30	319	472	1.48	477	538	1.13
YA Biography	99	78	0.79	33	15	0.45	32	42	1.31
YA Fiction	3,131	5,962	1.90	3,199	4,840	1.51	4,489	3,828	0.85
YA Graphic Novel	1,594	4,145	2.60	917	1,632	1.78	1,804	1,658	0.92

One of the more useful numbers is average circulation per item. This allows a general comparison from one area to another of the collection, as well as comparing the same areas from one branch to another.

Summary

The first thing we can look at is how the branches stack up against one another in general. The summary table below shows the overall numbers for each branch.

Cold Spring			Fort Thomas			Newport		
Total Items	Total Circulation	Average Circ Per Item	Total Items	Total Circulation	Average Circ Per Item	Total Items	Total Circulation	Average Circ Per Item
89,327	315,392	3.53	79,846	290,543	3.64	89,961	218,860	2.43

As this table shows, Newport has the largest collection, but the lowest circulation. This leads to an average circulation per item that is significantly lower than the other two branches. Fort Thomas has the highest circulation per item at present, though they are not significantly ahead of Cold Spring.

Highest Circulation per Item
As we look for any numbers that are especially high, video circulation jumps out. All videos—adult DVD, adult restricted DVD, and juvenile DVD—have high circulation per item:

Stat Code	Cold Spring			Fort Thomas			Newport		
	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item
Adult DVD	6,323	71,784	11.35	6,258	68,690	10.98	4,793	56,612	11.81
Adult DVD Restricted	2,705	39,231	14.50	2,645	39,442	14.91	1,830	31,142	17.02
Juvenile DVD	1,773	29,820	16.82	1,363	22,619	16.60	1,508	15,506	10.28
TOTALS	**10,801**	**140,835**	**13.04**	**10,266**	**130,751**	**12.74**	**8,131**	**103,260**	**12.70**

This is significantly higher than the overall average circulation per item, which runs in the range of 2-4. Video seems to be the most heavily used area of the collection. Circulation per item is also fairly close from one branch to another. Newport stands out slightly with particularly heavy adult video circulation per item, though it drops when looking at juvenile video. Some of the high usage system-wide, of course, can be attributed simply to the fact that the DVD circulation period is shorter than the other categories, making it possible for any given item to pass through the hands of more patrons.

Lowest Circulation per Item
As we look at the lowest circulation per item, besides staff-only and reference collections, a number of areas of nonfiction stand out. The majority of these low circulating areas are in Newport, and the majority of those are juvenile nonfiction.

Given the significantly larger collections at Newport, this indicates a need to weed the nonfiction collections, especially juvenile nonfiction. The age analysis showed that Newport has a large number of aged juvenile nonfiction titles. This surplus of aged titles is a likely reason that the Newport juvenile nonfiction is circulating so poorly.

Deselection
It is generally accepted in collection development that weeding increases circulation. According to the CREW Method Manual, libraries who conduct extensive weeding projects often report circulation gains immediately following.

The CREW Method Manual cites increased circulation as a primary reason for weeding. It also says that other benefits include saved space, and a more appealing collection that allows browsing patrons to locate items they want more quickly. CREW then goes on to state that in the end, regular weeding can enhance the Library's reputation for reliability and currency, which raises its status and perceived value with the public.

Ultimately, eliminating dated, worn, unattractive items will lead to increased circulation of the items that remain. This principle can be seen in action throughout the collection, and is particularly evident in the examples below:

Smallest Collection/Highest Circ per Item

Stat Code	Cold Spring			Fort Thomas			Newport		
	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item	Items	Circulation	Circ Per Item
Adult 300-399	2,142	2,973	1.39	2,273	2,501	1.10	3,101	2,640	0.85
Adult 400-499	103	199	1.93	107	172	1.61	114	90	0.79
Adult 500-599	435	708	1.63	471	598	1.27	495	382	0.77
Adult 800-899	472	594	1.26	503	594	1.18	969	723	0.75
Adult 900-999	1,558	2,294	1.47	1,290	2,203	1.71	1,681	1,826	1.09
Adult Biography	1,432	2,044	1.43	1,309	2,410	1.84	1,596	2,074	1.30
Adult Mystery	4,299	9,232	2.15	4,038	9,794	2.43	3,063	5,169	1.69
Juvenile 000-099	60	219	3.65	82	266	3.24	217	156	0.72
Juvenile 200-299	156	202	1.29	70	121	1.73	173	102	0.59
Juvenile 700-799	1,213	1,766	1.46	811	1,388	1.71	1,413	1,172	0.83
Juvenile 900-999	1,452	1,631	1.12	1,067	1,309	1.23	1,655	882	0.53
Juvenile Board Books	1,197	4,891	4.09	1,179	5,086	4.31	1,507	3,287	2.18
Juvenile Easy Readers	11,111	33,065	2.98	10,211	35,219	3.45	13,002	23,577	1.81
Juvenile Fiction	6,547	15,139	2.31	5,554	15,993	2.88	6,741	10,169	1.51
YA 700-799	36	132	3.67	45	105	2.33	100	101	1.01
YA Fiction	3,131	5,962	1.90	3,199	4,840	1.51	4,489	3,828	0.85

In each area listed above, the branch with the fewest items also has the highest circulation per item, while the branch with the most items has the lowest circulation per item. It is reasonable to assume that the lower circulation rates are caused by the shelves being filled with clutter that patrons don't wish to sort through, or older titles that make the overall area look dated and unappealing.

Community Needs

While it can be difficult to measure the needs of a community, demographic data can provide several key indicators, including population counts, age ranges in the community and race/language.

Population
The U.S. Census Bureau provides the actual census counts from 2010, as well as population estimates for 2014 for the county as a whole, and each population center where a library branch is located.

Population: By Age

Age groups are useful for analyzing collections because certain segments of the collection are used primarily by specific age groups. Board books are going to be used primarily by toddlers. Also, certain age groups rely more heavily on specific portions of the collection. Older adults, for example, are generally the heaviest users of large type.

The 2010 U.S. Census provides the following relevant age groups:
- Children under 5 years of age
- Children under 18 years of age
- Adults over 65 years of age

In addition to giving us the percentages of these populations within Campbell County as a whole, we can also look at city demographics for each library branch. It is important to note that only 2010 data is available for the cities. However, both 2010 data and 2014 estimates are available for the county as a whole. The 2014 estimated numbers are used for indications of positive or negative growth trends within the population groups.

The total county population grew by 1.7% between the 2010 census and the 2014 estimate issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. The following table shows the percentage of the population that fell into three identified age groups.

Overall Population Age Breakdown

Campbell County	Children under 5 years	Children under 18 years	Adults over 65 years
2010 Census	6.4%	22.8%	12.8%
2014 estimate	6.1%	22.0%	13.8%

Population Ages Compared to Relevant Collections

Children Under 5

	Campbell County	Cold Spring	Alexandria	Fort Thomas	Newport
Population	6.4%	5.8%	7.0%	5.9%	7.8%
Collection	15.9%	14.0%	--	15.1%	18.9%

When we compare the percentage of the population under the age of five, both in the county overall as well as in the major population centers, against the percentage of the collection geared to that age group, we find that the system is overstocked. Admittedly, the percentage of board and picture books should generally run somewhat above the percentage of young children in the community, because these titles are very short and children go through them quickly. In the same time their parent reads one novel, a child may go through a dozen or more picture books. Even accounting for this, the percentage of picture and board books is still very high compared to the population being served. In the system overall, the collection maintained for this age group is more than double the size of the age group, as children under five years old only make up 6.4% of the county population.

The 2014 estimates show that children under five are also decreasing slightly as a percentage of the county population, to 6.1%. While this decrease is small, if it continues the collection will be even more unbalanced compared to the needs of the community.

Children Under 18

	Campbell County	Cold Spring	Alexandria	Fort Thomas	Newport
Population	22.8%	19.4%	27.2%	24.2%	22.2%
Collection	28.9%	25.8%	--	25.8%	35.6%

In this case the percentage of children under the age of 18 is compared to the collection of all juvenile and young adult titles. In this case, while still high, the ratio of collection to population is not quite as badly skewed as the figures for the under-five age group. It shows no need for a significant expansion in these areas, but isn't as overstocked as the picture and board books appear to be.

For the county overall, children under 18 were 22.8% of the population in 2010. The 2014 estimates show a small decrease to 22.0% of the county population. This reinforces the indication from the population figures for children under five, showing that the population of children in the county is shrinking.

Adults over 65

	Campbell County	Cold Spring	Alexandria	Fort Thomas	Newport
Population	12.8%	18.3%	9.7%	15.6%	10.4%
Large-type	0.3%	0.3%	--	0.4%	0.4%
Adult Audiobooks	3.7%	3.5%	--	3.6%	4.1%

In this case we compare the percentage of the population over the age of 65 with the percentages of the collection that fall within the two categories most popular with this age group—large type and audiobooks.

The number of adult audiobooks is very low compared to this age group, and the large type is extremely understocked. The comparison indicates that both areas of the collection should be expanded, especially the large type.

For the county overall, adults over 65 were 12.8% of the population in 2010. The 2014 estimates show an increase of a full percentage point to 13.8% of the county population. Combined with the shrinking percentage of children, this presents a composite sketch of an aging population; one that may not be adequately served by the Library's collection unless collection development is adjusted accordingly.

Population: Languages spoken

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, county residents age 5 or older who live in a home where the primary language is not English make up 4.3% of the county's population. The bulk of these live in and around Newport and Fort Thomas, favoring Newport. Here is the breakdown by city:
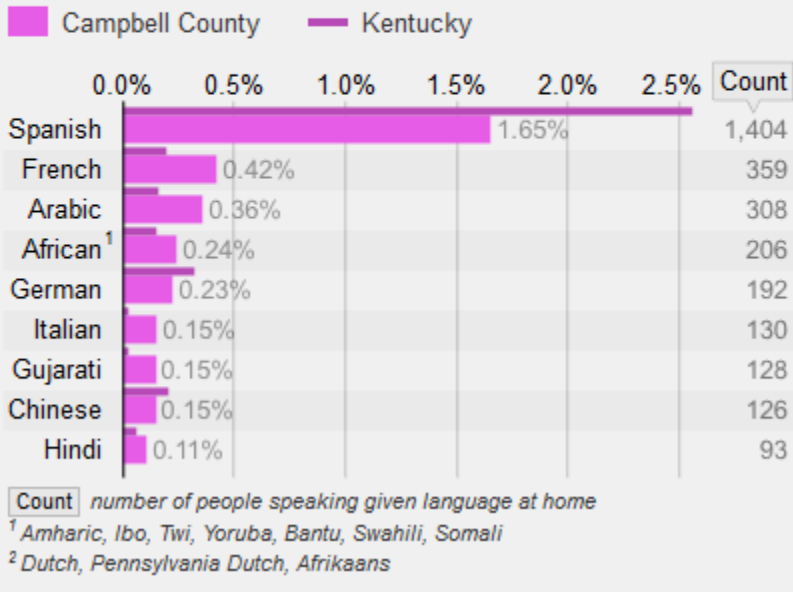
Foreign Language Speakers

Cold Spring	Fort Thomas	Newport	Alexandria
2.2%	4.3%	5.5%	1.5%

As can be seen in the chart below, the majority of these are Spanish speakers, with French and Arabic coming in at a distant second and third place.

Language Spoken At Home

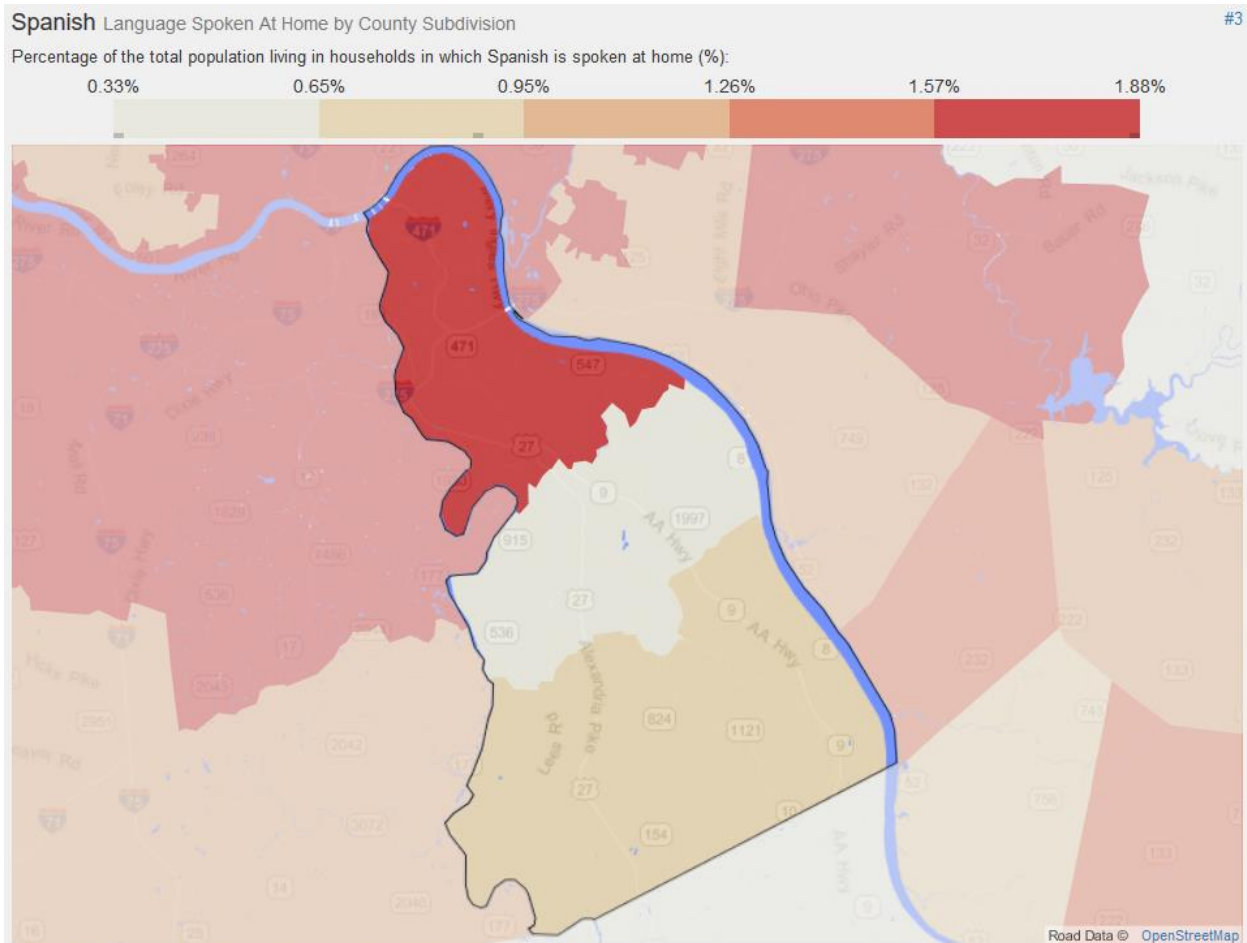Percentage of the total population living in households in which a given language is spoken at home.

Scope: population of Kentucky and Campbell County

■ Campbell County   — Kentucky

	Percentage	Count
Spanish	1.65%	1,404
French	0.42%	359
Arabic	0.36%	308
African [1]	0.24%	206
German	0.23%	192
Italian	0.15%	130
Gujarati	0.15%	128
Chinese	0.15%	126
Hindi	0.11%	93

Count   *number of people speaking given language at home*

[1] *Amharic, Ibo, Twi, Yoruba, Bantu, Swahili, Somali*

[2] *Dutch, Pennsylvania Dutch, Afrikaans*

Source: Statistical Atlas[1]

According to the 2010 census, 4.1% of the population of Newport is Latino or Hispanic, as opposed to 1.7% of the county overall. The following map shows the distribution of Spanish speakers in the county by subdivision.

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[1] Statistical Atlas uses U.S. Census Bureau data for all maps and charts, specifically the U.S. Census (2010) and the American Community Survey (2009-2013). More information about Statistical Atlas is available online at http://statisticalatlas.com/about/

Percentage of the total population living in households in which Spanish is spoken at home (%):

0.33%   0.65%   0.95%   1.26%   1.57%   1.88%

Road Data ©   OpenStreetMap

Source: Statistical Atlas

Members of the next two largest language groups, French and Arabic speakers, are divided more evenly throughout the county.

The Library does maintain some Spanish-language materials, for both adults and children. As of 28 Apr 2016, this collection numbered approximately 272 items, 93 of which were located in Newport. That made the Newport Spanish collection about 34% of the total Spanish language materials in the system. Given that the highest percentage of Spanish-speakers in the county live in the Newport region, Newport's collection should be expanded to match the population.

While French and Arabic are the next two most prominent languages, the overall percentage of the county's population is too small to support foreign language collections in either of these languages.

Another factor in serving non-English speaking populations is the need to provide ESL materials. There are currently only 31 ESL items in the Library's system-wide collection, and these are nearly all non-language specific. Given the language distribution in

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Campbell County, the collection would benefit from additional and updated ESL materials, and ones geared especially for Spanish, French and Arabic speakers, as available.

Population: Overall Geographic Distribution

The total population distribution according to the U.S. Census Bureau shows that much of the growth in the county is in the southern half, particularly Cold Spring and Alexandria. Newport shows a smaller growth rate, while the population of Fort Thomas remains stable.

	Campbell County	Cold Spring	Fort Thomas	Newport	Alexandria
2010 Census	90,336	5,912	16,325	15,273	8,458
2014 estimate	91,833	6,161	16,329	15,426	8,790
Percent change	+1.7%	+4.2%	0.0%	+1.0%	+3.9%

This indicates that while the largest share of the county population may still be centered on the Newport and Fort Thomas areas, this may not hold true over the long term.

Currently, only one branch supports the entire southern half of the county, the Cold Spring branch. With the steady rate of population growth around both Cold Spring and Alexandria, it seems unlikely that a collection the size of that at the current Cold Spring branch will be able to support the population long term.

Patron Satisfaction

There are inherent difficulties in attempting to mathematically measure patron satisfaction, which is a completely subjective factor. However, a well-written survey can at least supply some broad indicators.
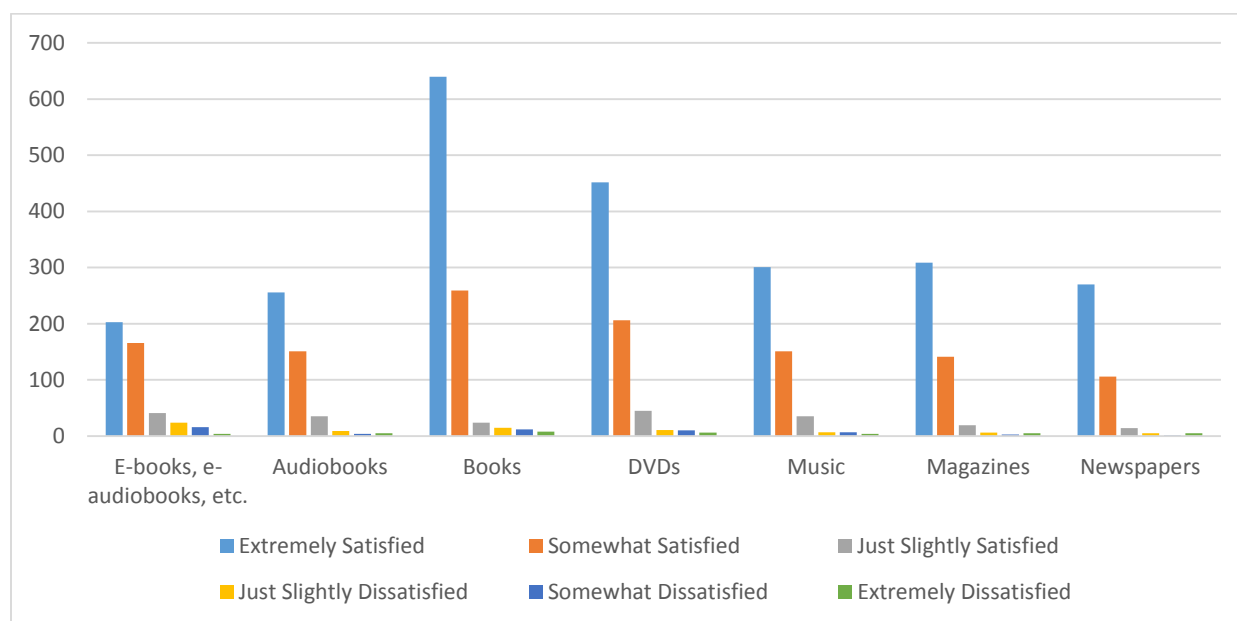
In a recent survey conducted by Campbell County Public Library, one question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with various areas of the Library's collection. As can be seen in the chart below, overall satisfaction levels are very high.
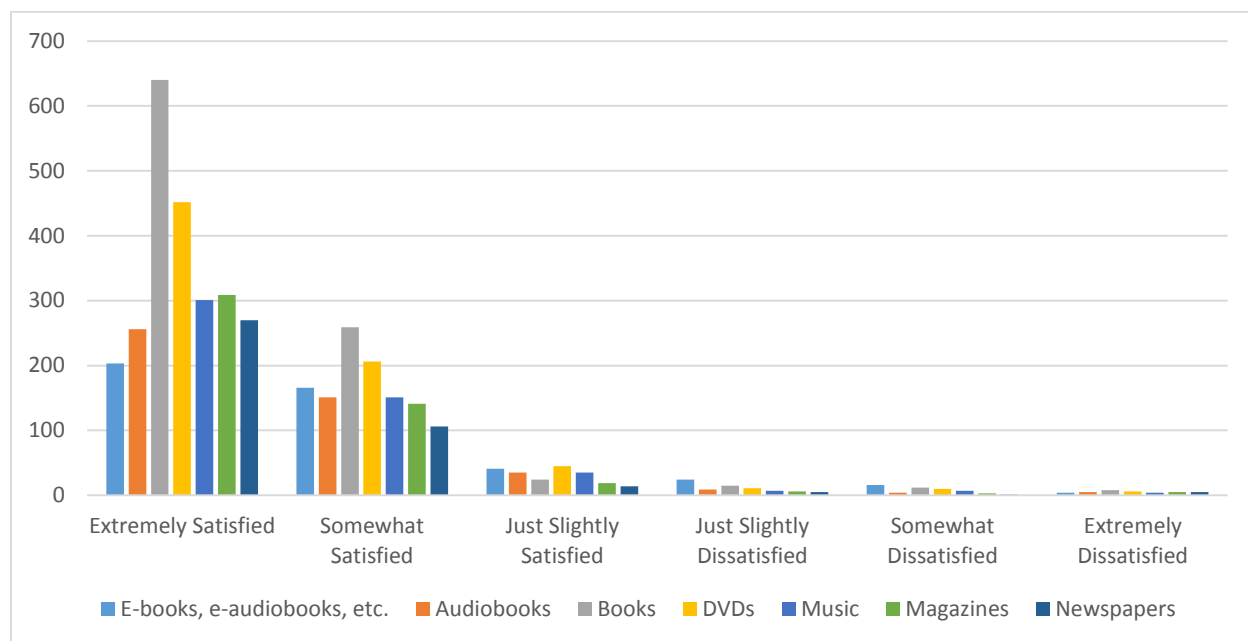
Of those who responded, 95.8% expressed satisfaction with the collection overall. In addition, 60.9% considered themselves extremely satisfied.

The chart below shows the breakdown by collection area. All areas did well, with books having the highest rating. 93.8% of respondents expressed satisfaction, and 66.8% were extremely satisfied. The lowest rated area, digital media, still had an overall satisfaction rating of 90.3%, with 44.7% being extremely satisfied.

It is possible that the lower scores for digital media may also be influenced by factors unrelated to the collection content. The structure of the survey did not specify actual use of the digital collection as a prerequisite for commenting on it. We do know that our digital collection represents less than 10% of our circulation, yet 87% of our survey respondents answered the question about the digital collection. This would seem to indicate that either participation was extremely skewed towards digital materials users, or that some respondents answered without first-hand knowledge of the collection.

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

E-books, e-audiobooks, etc.   Audiobooks   Books   DVDs   Music   Magazines   Newspapers

■ Extremely Satisfied   ■ Somewhat Satisfied   ■ Just Slightly Satisfied
■ Just Slightly Dissatisfied   ■ Somewhat Dissatisfied   ■ Extremely Dissatisfied

Ultimately, the problem with looking solely at the numbers is that they give no indication as to why they may be higher or lower, in and of themselves. We can only make some inferences from the free text comments patrons chose to supply. In all, about 351 respondents left comments. Of these, about 37 concerned the Library's collections. This is a very small sample, and insufficient to make any definitive statements. There are however, a few points worth noting.

The first is the size of the response rate itself. Only a little over 10% of the survey comments, whether positive or negative, mentioned the collection directly. Taking the time to comment implies a strong feeling about the topic, and often a negative one. Such a low commentary rate may indicate an overall level of satisfaction with the Library's collection, or at least a lack of dissatisfaction.

The largest single share of comments that did address the collection (more than a quarter) were compliments, whether on the total size, the variety of topics and genres, or the range of formats covered.

The two specific areas for improvement commented on most frequently were a request for more eBooks, and a request for more audiobooks, both physical and downloadable. Specific mention of the number of scratched or damaged DVDs, was made more than once, which could indicate a need to more aggressively review or replace "grubby" DVDs. There was also more than one comment specifically concerning the age of the nonfiction collection. Still, since all of these combined constituted only 10-15 comments, they cannot be taken as definitive statements on the state of the collection.

Overall, it appears that both the numerical data from the actual survey question, as well as the additional comments supplied, demonstrate that library patrons are generally quite satisfied with the Library's collection, though there were a couple of areas that might benefit from additional scrutiny.

Kentucky Libraries Unbound Collection

Campbell County patrons have access to a large collection of eBooks, e-Audiobooks and streaming video titles through Kentucky Libraries Unbound, the statewide digital materials consortium. These materials are being considered separately from the physical collection, as the nature of the collection differs so dramatically that it doesn't lend itself well to the same analysis methods.

Though the collection appears to the user to be a unified whole, Campbell County residents have access to two separate collections of materials—the shared consortium collection and the CCPL Advantage collection. Items in the shared collection are truly shared among all member libraries in the KLU consortium. This means that patrons at Campbell County compete with patrons at every other library system for checkouts and holds, which can potentially cause long wait times for very popular titles.

In order to mitigate this, CCPL has an Advantage collection. Items in this collection are available only to Campbell County patrons. Purchasing extra copies of popular items can drop the wait time significantly, as CCPL patrons only have to share the items with other CCPL patrons. This ability to tailor a collection for our specific patron base allows us to fill 40% of our monthly checkouts, on average, through the Advantage collection, even given its relatively small size compared to the larger consortium collection. It has also allowed us to drop the holds wait time considerably, from a high of over 23 days in 2014, to the current 17.4 days. Careful utilization of the Advantage collection has allowed hold wait times to drop, while also allowing for the building of a collection uniquely suited to the needs of Campbell County patrons.

Collection Size and Availability

The first thing to examine is availability of materials. Below is the number of unique titles, as well as the number of copies of those titles, shared among the consortium members.

Consortium Collection

	Titles	Copies
eBooks	47,393	111,732
Audiobooks	11,131	21,071
Video	1,474	1,578
TOTAL	59,998	134,381

The table below shows the total titles and copies held in CCPL's Advantage collection.

Advantage Collection

	Titles	Copies
eBooks	8,723	9,573
Audiobooks	2,357	2,472
Video	537	537
TOTAL	11,617	12,582

Because there is an overlap, especially with popular titles, a third table details the titles that are exclusive to CCPL. As can be seen, 35% of the titles in the Advantage collection are these exclusive titles.

Unique CCPL titles

	Titles
eBooks	3,169
Audiobooks	566
Video	342
TOTAL	4,077

Combining all of these, the table below shows the total number of titles and copies available to CCPL patrons.

Total Items Available

	Titles	Copies
eBooks	50,562	121,305
Audiobooks	11,697	23,543
Video	1,816	2,115
TOTAL	64,075	146,963

As can be seen in the charts below, the vast majority of the collection is eBooks, in response to the high patron demand for this medium.

Titles Available to CCPL Patrons

Video
3%

Audiobooks
18%

eBooks
79%

Copies Available to CCPL Patrons

Video
1%

Audiobooks
16%

eBooks
83%
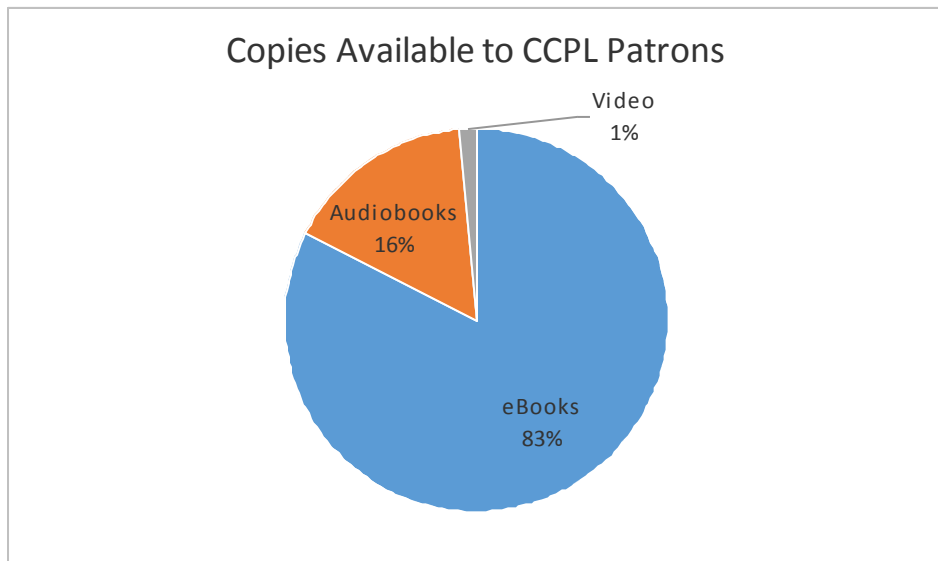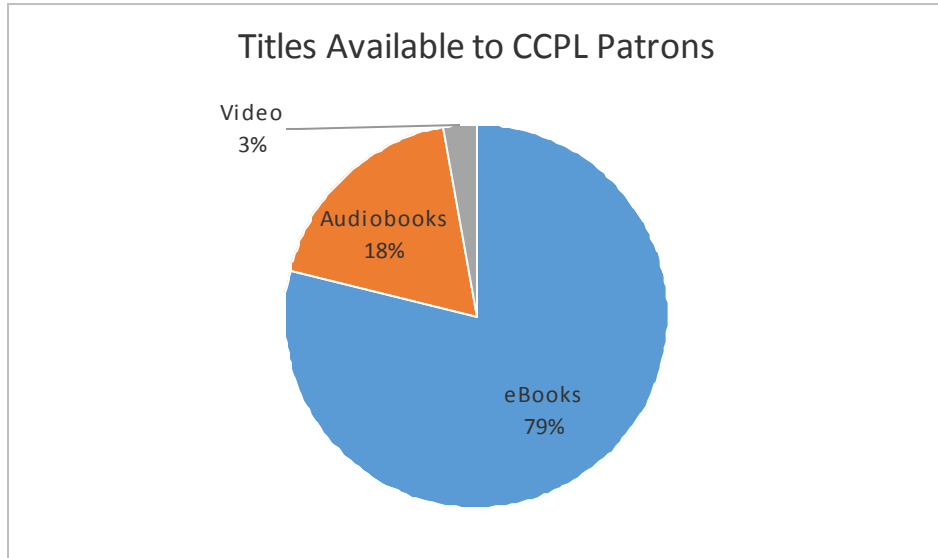
Streaming Video

At first glance, the video collection appears to be extremely small, however, given the difficulties in building a streaming video collection, 2,115 videos is actually a good-sized collection. Production companies are not comfortable with the library lending model, especially when it comes to online video. With Netflix, Amazon, Hulu and others willing to sign hefty contracts for the right to stream popular titles, often paying extra for exclusivity, it is difficult to find any A-list movie titles available for purchase for a library lending platform. What is left is usually B-grade and often lower. Additionally, there is currently no way to keep R-rated materials from being checked out by Juvenile patrons. Finding titles that patrons want while avoiding R-rated materials leaves few quality options. This makes a collection of more than 2,000 items with any sort of patron appeal very good indeed.

Finally, while certainly not scientific, some perspective can also be gained from comparing the relative collection sizes of some other OverDrive libraries around the country. The numbers below do not include Advantage titles for any of the systems, and were produced through simply using an open search of the Library's OverDrive collection to return all possible results. The searches were all run on May 18th, 2016.

Library	Collection Size on Search
Cincinnati Public Library	95,858
San Francisco Public Library	88,353
Boston Public Library	73,050
Kentucky Libraries Unbound	62,058
Denver Public Library	37,413
Dallas Public Library	34,801
Chicago Public Library	30,522

There are of course collections that are far larger, and those that are far smaller, but it is at least an indication that we compare well with a number of libraries usually considered exceptional systems.

Deselection
Due to the necessity of obtaining agreement among all the member libraries, the shared collection is not normally weeded except when nonfiction titles have gone extremely out-of-date, such as GRE prep guides for a discontinued version of the test, or when the file format for the title is no longer supported. On the other hand, there is no need to weed to save space, and little negative effect on the collection appearance. This means that some titles, especially fiction, are often retained long past the point when a physical item would have been discarded. In a shared environment, this is not something CCPL can control.
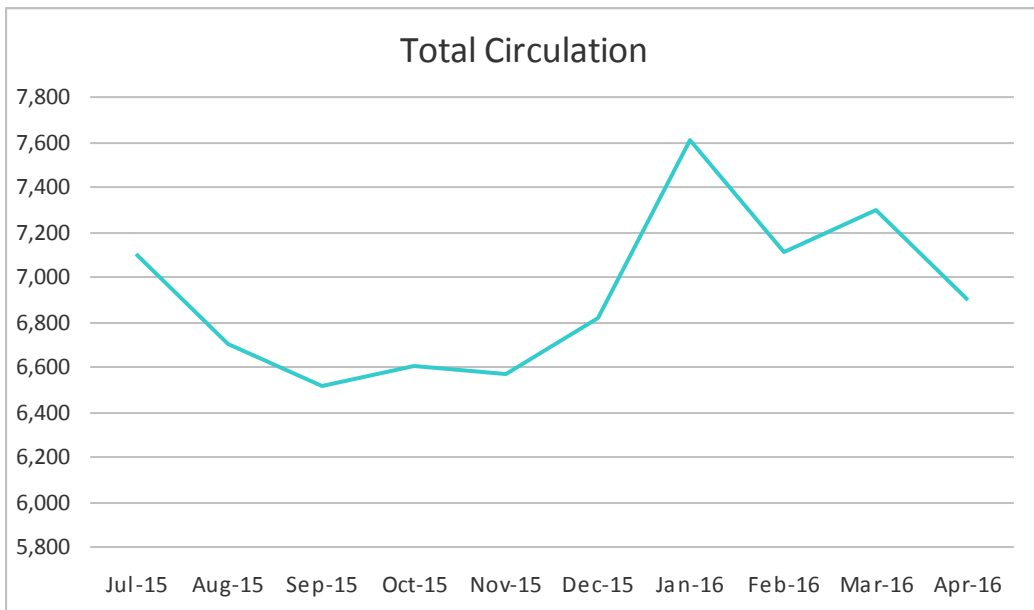
Video underwent significant involuntary weeding due to an obsolete file format. Hundreds of titles, a significant portion of the collection at that time, were lost when the proprietary Microsoft Windows video (WMV) file format was discontinued. This left behind a small collection of the higher circulating streaming video titles, which has since been expanded. Patrons generally prefer the streaming format for the relative ease of use, so the impact on circulation from losing the WMV titles was actually very small.
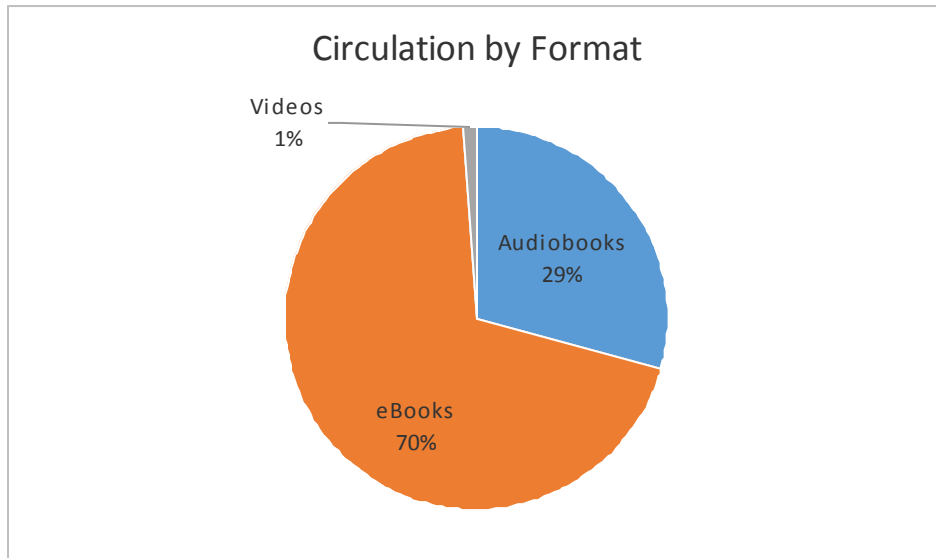
Circulation

The next thing to examine is circulation. As can be seen below, the current circulation is following what has become the usual pattern with a dip in the fall, a climb in December and a high peak in January just after the Holidays. We then see a relative

drop off in February, and a little up and down movement through the rest of the spring before beginning the annual summer climb.

Circulation this fiscal year has been typical of previous years in that the lowest points following January are never as low as in the previous fall, and the high points are higher than those of the previous summer. Each year the December/January peak drives up the overall average circulation.

Total Circulation

7,800	
7,600	
7,400	
7,200	
7,000	
6,800	
6,600	
6,400	
6,200	
6,000	
5,800	

Jul-15   Aug-15   Sep-15   Oct-15   Nov-15   Dec-15   Jan-16   Feb-16   Mar-16   Apr-16

As can be seen in the chart below, the vast majority of the circulation is eBooks. When we compare the circulation figures for all collections to the collection size, we find that while the streaming video collection size is in proportion with circulation, the e-Audiobook collection (18% of the total) is much lower than the actual circulation (29% of the total). Some of this disproportion is due to the nature of a shared digital collection, but much of it is due to a need to expand the e-Audiobook collection.

Circulation by Format

Videos
1%

Audiobooks
29%

eBooks
70%

The disproportion between collection size and circulation in eBooks can probably be attributed to a number of factors. As eReaders and then tablets first became popular, it spurred a boom in eBook circulation, and therefore purchasing, that the collection size still reflects. There are also simply more titles available for purchase in eBook format than there are in e-Audiobook. More than a little of the disparity also results from efforts to fill holds. EBooks are often more expensive than an equivalent e-Audiobook. There are also more holds placed on eBook titles due to the greater overall usage. This can mean that the attention and money paid to the eBook collection leaves less left over for e-Audiobooks. Regardless of the reasons, however, there appear to be clear indications that the collection size is not keeping up with the demand for digital audiobooks.

As can be seen in the graph below, e-Audiobook circulation follows the same general pattern as the overall circulation for the entire KLU collection. Despite the usual dips in February and in the fall, circulation continues to rise from year to year.

Audiobook Circulation
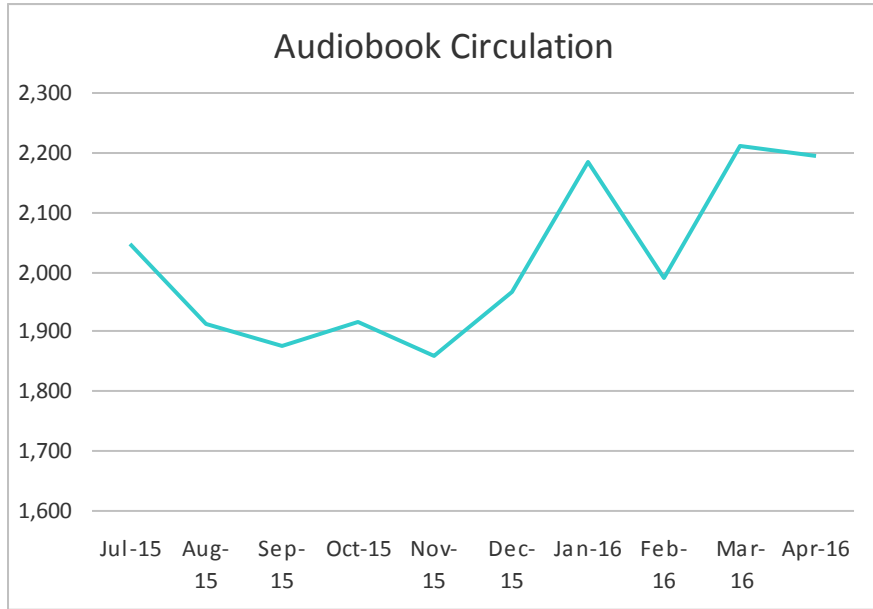
Overall Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

The Library's collection has a number of strengths. The collection is exemplary as defined by the Kentucky Public Library Association standards. It meets all criteria for per capita spending, percentage of non-print materials, database access, electronic resources, special patron groups and collection maintenance.

The collection also has a strong core of award winners, good recent literature and classic titles, as demonstrated in the gap analysis. This provides a broad and solid foundation for our fiction collection.

Aged materials continue to be removed from the collection, leading to a more up-to-date collection overall. While there is still room for additional improvement, the median publication dates show that attempts at updating most collections are underway. When this is broken down into CREW Method categories, it becomes evident that several of the most time-sensitive areas of the collection are on target with CREW, while others are getting close.

Assessing the use of the Library's collection shows that video circulates extremely well in all age groups. Adult video, adult video restricted and juvenile video had an average circulation per item that exceeds all other areas of the collection. Speaking in terms of circulation per item, videos were followed in popularity by juvenile board books, adult music, and large type.

The recently conducted survey demonstrated a very high level of overall user satisfaction with the Library's collections. The numerical data was further confirmed by the generally positive patron comments appended to the end of the survey responses.

Weaknesses

While strides have been taken in the past few years, several areas of the collection still have issues with aging content, especially in the juvenile collections.

A breakdown of the collection by age demographics shows that the juvenile collections are actually overstocked compared to the populations they serve. The one branch that has obviously begun to systematically review juvenile collections and has deselected accordingly still has a collection more than sufficient in size to cover children aged 0-18, and their average circulation per item has improved in these areas.

Additionally, though the juvenile collections are overstocked, the gap analysis revealed that they are lacking in many recent recommended titles. The award winners are well-represented on the shelves, but not other highly regarded titles from those same years.

Comparing the average circulation per item across branches and collections highlights several areas that are in need of more aggressive review and replacement. Though all branches had these pockets of low comparative circulation, the majority were located at the Newport branch.

The overall population of the county is aging. Of the three age groups identified by the U.S. Census Bureau, only adults over 65 is growing in numbers. This group tends to be heavy users of large print and audiobook collections, both of which are relatively small.

The foreign language and ESL collections are problematic. While there is a Spanish foreign language collection, it is spread throughout the system. The problem with this is that the Spanish-speakers are not spread evenly across the county. The highest concentration live in and around Newport.

The Spanish language collection is also difficult to identify, both on the shelves and in the catalog. The adult materials are interfiled with the regular English-language collections. The juvenile Spanish materials are all located in the juvenile nonfiction collection in the 400s, whether the titles are nonfiction or not.

ESL materials also present some problems. The Library's ESL collection is composed of some very generic titles that are not geared towards any particular group of non-English speakers, including the identified foreign language groups present in the county.

Recommendations

Nonfiction
We should maintain focus on updating the adult nonfiction collections, as many of them fail to meet, or only barely meet, the age criteria presented in CREW, on average. Juvenile nonfiction is generally behind the adult in every category, and in some cases major updating to particular areas of the juvenile nonfiction collection is needed. In both cases, priority attention should be given to areas showing both poor currency, and low circulation per item, as presumably the age is a major factor affecting the circulation.

The gap analysis also revealed that the Library lacks a number of the recommended juvenile titles from the last five years. Given the problems with aging nonfiction, emphasis should be placed on acquiring the most recent of the nonfiction titles missing from the Library's holdings.

Fiction
Our fiction collection is really one of our strongest assets, when looking at the gap analysis. Circulation is weakest at Newport, and given that, it might be worthwhile to focus more on current bestsellers there, and de-emphasize having a large general fiction collection. The gap analysis can serve as a base list to start tagging fiction titles that are necessary to maintain as part of a core collection.

The gap analysis also shows that the Library lacks many of the recommended juvenile titles from the last five years. As fiction does not suffer from the same aging issues as nonfiction, all of the missing fiction titles from the most recent five-year period should be evaluated for inclusion in the Library's collection.

DVDs
DVDs circulate well across the board, and probably warrant additional funds and attention. Newport, in particular, has a high DVD circulation, so devoting more time and resources to their feature film collection would prove beneficial. Given the high usage, and the age of some of the titles, extra effort should be expended to monitor and replace or remove "grubby" DVDs in the collection.

Deselection
The process of more stringent deselection for age, condition and low circulation needs to continue. The past three years have seen a more consistent weeding process develop, primarily through the use of CollectionHQ. The software gave the Branch Managers the ability to generate weeding lists each month, and weeding became more regular.

There are, however, a few issues that have afflicted our weeding process. One is that the CollectionHQ software focuses exclusively on circulation, and bases weeding

recommendations primarily on circulation frequency, or lifetime circulation. This has allowed a number of outdated titles to remain in the system, through accruing just enough occasional circulation to miss the threshold. CollectionHQ is also problematic because our policies state that we use the CREW Method as our deselection guideline, which CollectionHQ cannot adequately mimic.

Now that our CollectionHQ subscription is ending, and CollectionHQ has served its purpose in getting everyone on board with a regular weeding process, deselection over the next few years should take a "back to basics" approach, and really focus on applying the CREW criteria. Tailored weeding lists should (and will) be provided to the branches that more accurately reflect the CREW criteria, and therefore more aggressively attack the outdated material in the system.

It also seems clear, after looking at the available data, that the juvenile collections have not received weeding attention commensurate with the adult collections. Avenues for increasing targeted deselection in the juvenile collections should be pursued, particularly at Newport, which shows the largest amount of outdated juvenile material in almost every category. Collection Services should adhere as strictly to the nonfiction selection schedule for juvenile nonfiction, as well as adult, to insure updated material is selected systematically for the soon to be weeded areas. This will hopefully provide reassurance for those conducting the weeding. Collection services should also explore ways to more comprehensively remove older titles for which updated equivalents have been purchased in both the adult and juvenile nonfiction collections.

Large print and audiobook collections
Given the growth in the population of adults over 65, these collections can expect to see progressively higher usage over time. The current collections are not large enough to support this population, should it continue to expand. The audiobook collections should be updated and possibly increased, with more attention paid to consistent selection and deselection among the audiobooks, in the future.

The Large Type collections at all branches should be more rigorously maintained and probably increased. At least moderate increases should likely be made to the shelving areas for Large Type, to allow the collection to keep pace with the expansion of the targeted population.

Spanish language collection
The Spanish language collection at the Newport branch should be increased, to support the higher concentration of Spanish speakers in the area.

The Spanish language collection also needs to be distinguished from the regular collection, making it easier to find. A prefix to the call number would be an easy solution to increase their visibility on the shelf and in the PAC. While there is no

standard for such a prefix, "SPA" or "SPAN" seem to be popular choices with public libraries.

Shelving these items separately would make them easier to browse, particularly with the juvenile materials. Especially when dealing with a population that may not be as familiar with local library shelving practices, or as proficient with an English language catalog, interfiling the materials most likely to interest them is detrimental.

ESL collection
The ESL materials should be reviewed and updated. The collection should also be expanded with newer titles geared towards the three most prominent language groups in Campbell County: Spanish, French and Arabic, if available. This is another area that might benefit from separate shelving, and/or being designated by a specific catalog prefix to make the items easier to find.

Kentucky Libraries Unbound
The size of the e-Audiobook portion of the collection has not kept pace with the demand. This portion of the collection should be expanded at least in proportion with the current circulation. An additional increase in size over this amount, may also increase circulation, and should be considered. More review and expansion will probably benefit the juvenile digital collections, as the circulation doesn't seem to have kept pace with the access to compatible devices by that age group.

Conclusion

Taken as a whole, our Library has a strong collection, particularly in adult print materials. There is good coverage of recommended, award-winning and classic titles. The nonfiction collection is much "younger" than it has been in the past, though it needs more sustained deselection of aged materials, and updates with current material to improve the average age.

Most of the other issues identified with the adult collection, such as the need to expand the large-print collection or the need for new ESL materials, are fairly straightforward and, while time and effort will be needed to address them, aren't overly complicated. The primary remedy is simply purchasing more items on the particular topics, and considering things like call number prefixes or shelving arrangement.

The juvenile print collections have their own issues, but they are not insurmountable. A more structured approach to refreshing the juvenile nonfiction can be planned and implemented. While systematic deselection of older materials and filling more recent gaps cannot be accomplished overnight, they can be accomplished in time with an increased dedication to deselection, and steady purchasing of current material.

Most of the other issues revealed throughout the assessment are simply individual problems that have perhaps been overlooked previously, such as the distribution of Spanish language materials. While things like this need to be evaluated and addressed, they aren't evidence of a deeper, systemic problem.

In the main, the assessment has revealed a solid collection that continues to improve. It is my hope that Collection Services can accelerate that improvement by redoubling our focus on core collection development duties over the next two years. The collection faces no issues that cannot be addressed by the development of more structured and targeted purchasing and deselection plans, and more time and attention devoted specifically to collection development.

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