Writing the Collection Statement

- Context
- Process so far
- Issues
- Questions & Discussion
Reference Collections @RMIT

- PRINT REF Items:
  - Brunswick Reference 701
  - Bundoora Reference 5893
  - BundooraEast Reference 393
  - Business Reference 1366
  - Carlton Reference 1279
  - Swanston Reference 6488

**TOTAL Print REF items = 16120**

(No recent usage surveys, anecdotal low usage)
eReference Collections @RMIT

- Credo Reference = 100 titles
- CRC Netbase = 2980 titles
- Gale Virtual Reference Collection = 65 titles
- Knovel = 447 titles
- Major Reference Works = 5 titles
- Oxford Reference Online = 107 titles
- Referex = 1607 titles
- SIAM Ref collection = 336 titles
- Springer eReference Works = 50 titles
- Wiley Reference = 15 titles
- TOTAL = 5712 titles (Usage stats avail)
Reference responsibilities

- Library Managers – resp for REF coll @ sites (space planning)
- HE and VET REF budgets (mono/serial)
- Electronic Resources Group – e-book & d’b approval
- REF Librarians – assist w selection, deselection, maintenance & IST. Daily usage & promotion.
- School Liaison Librarians – selection/deselection in specific subject areas
- Teachers – recommend items/review items for W/D
- Library Resources & Access – cataloguing/amendments/withdrawals from catalogue
Imperatives for REF statement

- No REFERENCE collection statement
- Acknowledge shift from print to electronic
- Provide guidelines for selection & weeding (incl what roles various staff play in the processes)
- Collection Analysis (by Dewey ranges) 2007/2008
- Collection Statements for subject areas devised & used by SLLs
- Need to develop similar for REF collection across all sites
- Want statement in place before large scale review & weeding – (esp at Swanston site).
- Floorspace is at a ‘premium’
REF Collection Statement - aims

- Identify the primary users of the collection
- Clarify our collective thinking on the purpose and scope of our reference collection;
- Write a clear collection statement that provides a framework for the development and maintenance of the collection in our ‘hybrid’ library across multiple sites.
- Offer clear guidelines as to who has responsibility for the various tasks associated with the collection
- Offer recommendations for raising the visibility and use of the collection.
Process so far…

- Look at what others have done (Aust & O/S)
- Look at previous & current *draft* RMIT collection policy
- Review existing collection statements for Subject Liaison Areas
- Draft REF collection statement using SL template
- Seek consultation/comment on draft
- Revise draft & add subject data to table
- Final approval and promulgation
- Commence full-scale REF collection review
Issues

**Purpose/definition?**
What is a REF collection? (defined by usage or format?)
Why electronic? (Core collection, 24x7)
Why print? ("consistently useful for answering REF Qs at that site")
Why both? (cost, availability, user-preference)
Usage as Quasi open reserve??

**Responsibility?**
Need to clarify selection, weeding & budget responsibilities
Communication & cooperation across groups essential.
How are funds allocated? Local space considerations important.

**Primary users?**
How much do we cater to general public? (esp City campuses). Be specific about ‘referrals’ to other libraries. What about ‘reference librarians’?
Issues

Scope?
- Selection criteria for REF?
- Slightly broader than curriculum?
- How to define breadth & depth across DDC ranges @ each site?
- Use of modified conspectus levels in subject table

Location?
- REF or GEN or STORAGE? “Not for loan” items on GEN shelves?
- Duplication across sites?
- Location & physical display within Library & on Lib webpage?
- Some ‘ready-ref’ at desk? (But not REF!)

Chronology?
- Do we keep backruns of older editions? Where?
Issues

Types of material?
Guidelines needed. Core titles? Print or e-format? Australiana?

Deselection?
When to weed? How frequent?

Future collection development?
More e-books

Other?
Publicity & Displays
IST

Lots to consider!

Questions?