Doe Reference Collection Reconfiguration

Current Situation

The Reference Center is comprised of two distinctive collections, Doe Reference (DREF) and Government Reference (GREF). Currently, the majority of Doe Reference materials are shelved along the perimeter in the North Reading Room (NRR), including in sub-locations, i.e., Periodical Indexes, Dictionaries, Atlases, and Abbreviations. DREF materials are also shelved in the Reference Hall in sub-locations, i.e., Biographies, Directories, and Government/Statistics. GREF materials are shelved on the east end book ranges in the NRR including sub-locations, i.e., Census, Map Case, Indexes, and Folio.

DREF and GREF microfiche collections are filed in cabinets at the east end of the NRR. DREF CD-ROMs are filed in cabinets in 202A; CD-ROMs are not included in the GREF collection.

Although there are a wide variety of electronic reference resources, currently relationships between the print collection and electronic resources are invisible.

The existing configuration and lack of visible connection between print and electronic resources contributes to the underutilization of a collection key to the research process. Realizing that the research process is trending away from print toward digital, it is nonetheless worthwhile to make it easier and more convenient for staff and users to discover, locate and use reference materials, particularly those materials providing context and guidance.

Reconfiguration: NRR, Reference Hall and GREF

To promote and increase independent use of print reference sources, to publicize and encourage use of related electronic reference resources, and to maintain the NRR for quiet study, a high-demand reference collection will be installed in the Reference Hall for dynamic use. Materials in five existing sub-locations, Atlases, Abbreviations, Biographies, Directories, and Government/Statistics, will be incorporated within the new configuration. Materials in Dictionaries and Periodical Indexes will remain in their present locations. Microfiche and CD-ROM collections will not be affected.

New Reference Hall Collection

- comprised of subject encyclopedias and guides to the literature, general guides to reference sources; broad-sweep chronologies; style manuals, selected almanacs and handbooks, including statistical sources
- formed with all DREF titles that are also in MREF and titles culled from DREF recommended by selectors, instructional and reference desk staff

- will be highly visible and in very close proximity to the reference desk and Research Advisory Service
- will be signed to promote, heavily, online resources, including equivalencies and auxiliaries
- collection will run from west to east, in call number order, on the existing perimeter ranges and low bookcases

Clearly, the Moffitt Renovation Project includes a re-vision of reference service; however, rearrangement of DREF is needed, regardless, and is not a direct by-product of the impending Moffitt Surge Project. The MREF collection will be stored during the surge and reviewed/returned to the renovated Moffitt.

North Reading Room

- NRR collection will be reviewed to cull materials for the new Reference Hall collection.
- Current Reference Hall materials (Biographies, Directories, Government/Statistics) will be reviewed and weeded:
    - integrating into the NRR
    - incorporating into the new Reference Hall collection
    - transferring to MAIN to shelve there or NRLF
    - transferring to GREF
    - offering to a subject specialty library
    - withdrawing to Gifts

Government Reference Ranges

GREF navigational challenges (primary collection and four sub-locations) would be obviated, somewhat, through the elimination of DREF sub-location Govt/Stats. Some of the Govt/Stats titles will be transferred to GREF, to bring government information and statistical sources together, and some will be integrated into the New Reference Hall collection.

Discovery: General Reference Resources

A web portal will be developed to make it easier to discover general reference sources. The portal will highlight general reference sources in the ERF that focus primarily on the social sciences, humanities, general science, and government information. These sources will be organized following the ERF By Types categories.

In addition to a customized web portal, providing access to online and print reference aggregators such as *Reference Universe (RU)* would enhance the visibility and use of our print and electronic reference sources. *RU* indexes over 20,000 electronic and print reference sources that cover a wide variety of subjects. Content of subject encyclopedias and other reference works are keyword searchable enabling discovery and access to relevant articles through

links to holdings in our library catalog. Many of *RU's* titles are held by the Library, including those of major publishers such as Oxford, Routledge, Sage, Gale, and Greenwood. Currently, *RU* indexes titles from 1980-present.

As of this June, Berkeley has an annual subscription to *RU*, adding us to the list of UC campuses with current subscriptions: Irvine, Los Angeles and San Diego. *RU* is in the process of being cataloged and added to the ERF. Initially it will not be mapped to our Library holdings. Once titles have been linked to Berkeley's holdings, the *RU* database will be fully functional with search results containing locations for print and e-reference sources owned by UCB. *Reference Universe* http://www.paratext.com/reference_universe.html

Additionally, *Gale's Virtual Reference Library (GVRL)*, an eBook provider, will be reviewed, and selected e-reference titles will be purchased. Access to *RU* and *GVRL* resources will increase the visibility of print and electronic reference sources.

Signage will be interspersed, appropriately, throughout the print collection identifying equivalent and related electronic resources.

Brass tacks:

- Will relocate DREF titles that are duplicated in MREF from the NRR to form the basis of the new Reference Hall collection.

- Will relocate categories of materials identified in the May 2008 Moffitt Reference Print Collection Survey (subject encyclopedias, style manuals/guides) from the NRR to the new Reference Hall.

- Will ask D/M staff who provide course instruction for a list of reference sources included in their course handouts; will relocate titles from the NRR to the new Reference Hall as appropriate.

- Will ask D/M reference staff and selectors to recommend appropriate titles for the new Reference Hall.

- Will work out a shelving plan
  - NRR capacity is 2,031 lf; occupied is 1,712 lf; unoccupied is 319 lf
  - Reference Hall capacity is 648 lf (approximately 2,592 volumes)
  - Govt/Stat – selected titles moved into new Reference Hall; rest will be absorbed in GREF which has capacity
  - Directories – only titles with current information moved into new Reference Hall; other titles move to NRR, transferred or withdrawn

- Biographies – heavily weeded; absorbed into NRR, transferred or withdrawn

Timeline:
Summer/Winter 2009:

- May 2009: Dup MREF/DREF title list for New Reference Hall completed

- June - December 2009
  - weed the Reference Hall sub-locations
  - weed the NRR
  - compile list of recommended titles for the new Reference Hall collection

- Winter Break 2009
  - shift the NRR collection to make room for biographies
  - relocate selected titles from the NRR to the new Reference Hall
  - create and post signs
  - work with LSO to enable full functionality in *RU*

- Spring 2010
  - Develop reference web portal

To evaluate the new Reference Hall collection usage trends and to inform collection development decisions, several strategies will be employed, i.e., capturing “off-the-shelf” use, manually or using barcode readers, surveying reference staff, and maintaining visual alertness, i.e., observing use by staff and library users.

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