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Multicultural E-resources: An Exploratory Study of Resources Held by ARL Libraries

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to discover what libraries belonging to the Association of Research Libraries are subscribing to in support of multicultural and diversity research. A list of bibliographic and digital collections was created and searched for in the online public access catalogs of academic and research libraries in 2005 and 2008. A list of recommended e-resources was derived based on the ownership of Association of Research Libraries member libraries and Magazine for Libraries 2006 and 2009. During the three-year interval there was a 45.8 percent increase in subscriptions to the multicultural and diversity databases.

Keywords: multicultural databases, academic libraries, diversity, electronic collections

Colleges and universities are responsible to challenge and teach students to think and see the world outside of their own experience. Without the diverse voices and experiences from underrepresented and minority groups, there is a void in the learning process. As college campuses are becoming more diverse, there is an increase in multicultural and diversity themes. Libraries play a key role in providing information and access to obscure and previously ignored histories and viewpoints. This information increases the likelihood the truth will be discovered and documented. However, for years libraries have struggled to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

Generally libraries address these issues in one of three ways: (1) recruitment and retention of employees, (2) outreach services and programs, and (3) collection development (Chadley 1992). The hardest area to evaluate is the de-

velopment and management of multicultural collections because of the lack of provision and the interdisciplinary nature of diversity and ethnic studies (Trujillo and Weber 1991). While it is a challenge to assess the development of multicultural collections, whether print or electronic, these collections reflect the value of diversity to the university. One can define multicultural and diversity research as research that deals with race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender, political thought, language, ability, and culture. Librarians are gatekeepers who provide links and strategies to assist users seeking this type of information.

Over the past ten years there has been a proliferation of multicultural and ethnic electronic resources. Publishers and scholars are digitizing resources, providing access to multicultural collections that have been on the shelves or in vertical files for years. Students and faculty have welcomed these multicultural resources after having experienced the challenge of locating scholarly information on multicultural topics. Multicultural databases are interdisciplinary, cutting across history, social sciences, education, psychology, and literature. These resources enrich the entire academic community. They provide connections to the ethnic voices and values that have been ignored by publishers and scholars. However, there is not an endless pool of money available to subscribe to new products, especially when libraries are cutting budgets. As libraries desire to increase their multicultural resources, what databases should be purchased? Is there a recommended list of essential resources? If not, which databases do academic and research libraries subscribe to? Answers to these questions will raise awareness of how libraries can and do support multicultural and diversity research.

These questions arose when the author wanted to increase the number of multicultural electronic resources and sought a way to persuade the library administration. A list of multicultural electronic resources was created from resources owned by the author's institution and resources on the "wish list." The list was searched against the catalog and Web site holdings of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in 2005. The search was repeated in 2008. This exploratory study provides evidence that academic libraries are adding to their collections of electronic resources to support multicultural and diversity research. The data gathered shows the change over a three-year period between 2005 and 2008 in ownership of recommended multicultural databases.

Literature Review

There have been several studies on basic sources in multicultural areas, but there are few studies that focus on multicultural electronic resources. The literature revealed a handful of articles that focus on access and ownership of *Multicultural E-resources* 67 nonmainstream and racial or ethnic journals

and databases. Kilpatrick (1996) summarized the lack of availability and accessibility of gay and lesbian literature in standard indexes and abstracts. Although gay and lesbian issues were becoming more visible in the mid-1990s, libraries did not own indexes or were not aware of the suggested list of journals in *Magazines for Libraries*. He examined the indexing of ninety-two journals recommended by Thistlethwaite and Tsang's bibliography in library holdings through OCLC. Results showed less than twenty-five OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) member libraries subscribed to fifteen journals on the list. Kilpatrick alluded that censorship due to biases was the cause of the omission of key journals and indexes that supported information and research on gay and lesbian issues.

Nonmainstream journals in Alternative Press Index (API), produced by Alternative Press Center, were also evaluated for ownership and accessibility in academic libraries. API provides access to articles concentrating on liberal or left-wing topics. Marinko and Gerhard (1998) focused on ownership of these titles in ARL libraries. Results showed that only twelve ARL libraries had 50 percent of the journal titles, although 88 percent owned API. The accessibility of API journals using full-text journal packages versus the regional resource-sharing network was studied. Larger libraries increased their access to nonmainstream journal titles using commercial full-text journal packages such as JSTOR and ProjectMuse. However, the best way to meet the needs for nonmainstream research was through the resource sharing networks in New York (LaFond, Van Ullen, and Irving 2000).

Articles on racial and ethnic resources were product reviews and announcements on "new" products. Several articles about Black Thought and Culture (Boulé 2005), Ethnic NewsWatch (Albanese 2004; Fang 2002), and GenderWatch (Fang 2002) were appealing not only because of the focus on ethnic sources, but the online database was not generated from a print index. Golderman and Connolly (2005) described the variety of African and African-American resources, although similar resources were not evaluated. In the area of women and gender studies, Ingold (2005) evaluated Internet resources, both proprietary and Web resources. Consequently Ingold's research is very useful for collection development.

There were only a limited number of research articles on accessing and comparing resources to mainstream sources. Pillow (1999) reviewed one year's worth of articles from thirteen African American scholarly journals and the indexing in nine major cross-disciplinary databases, such as America History and Life, Expanded Academic, and two subject specific databases, Black Studies on Disc and the Black Studies Database. Pillow was disappointed to find incomplete coverage of the journals and that only 66 percent of articles in the sample year were included in the eleven databases. She concluded that "no comprehensive up-to-date index exists for African American Studies" (Pillow 1999, 26).

Even more challenging is research on subgroups within gender or ethnic/racial groups. For example, finding research on women of color is more difficult because of the number and variety of resources that need to be consulted. Sims-Wood and Ziegler (1990) noted the challenges in finding information on the history of Black women. There was inadequate indexing and coverage of topics on subgroups and inconsistent usage of the subject vocabulary. The authors concluded that "for women's studies, one must access print indexes, databases and human resources to extract the hard-to-find materials needed to conduct a scholarly research project" (p. 310). Their bottom line was that scholarly research on racial/ethnic groups is extremely cumbersome and challenging because of the number of resources that need to be consulted, inconsistent vocabulary among the resources, and a lack of journal indexes and coverage of journal titles.

Vega Garcia (1998) researched ownership and access of racial/ethnic journals in academic libraries. She looked at the indexing patterns of African American and U.S. Latina women's literature in women's studies, ethnic studies, and broad discipline-oriented databases. Results showed keyword combinations of terms retrieved the most relevant articles in all of the databases, but again, to locate the scholarly research it was necessary to consult multiple indexes with several combinations of key terms.

Vega Garcia (2000) continued her research in this area by examining how many ARL libraries owned scholarly and popular journals that cover African American and U.S. Latino groups. Again her research focused on the two largest minority groups in the United States, African Americans and Latinos. Vega Garcia identified core journals supporting racial/ethnic groups and databases that provided access to these titles. Results demonstrated that ARL libraries have many of the African American core scholarly journals supporting research but lacked ownership of U.S. Latino scholarly journals. Journals for leisure reading for both groups were not supported beyond popular newsstand publications. Vega Garcia's research also examined indexing of the scholarly journals in selected databases, revealing a weakness in coverage and indexing, even within the racial/ethnic databases.

Overall, the underlying theme of the research articles was frustration because of the lack of ownership and accessibility of multicultural and diversity journals and the weakness of the coverage and indexing. Much of the research was done ten years ago. Since that time, the number of electronic journal databases and resources has grown. Although research has been done on racial/ethnic and nonmainstream resources, there is no research that focuses on the growing number of multicultural electronic resources and ownership of these resources in academic libraries.

This article surveys ownership of these databases in ARL libraries to define a list of databases that support multicultural research. Data compiled from the academic and research libraries will also disclose who subscribed to which multicultural databases in 2005 and 2008. To further refine the list,

a comparison will be made to *Magazines for Libraries* subject list for libraries. With this information a recommended inclusive list of multicultural electronic resources will be derived.

Methodology (Data Collection)

In the fall of 2005, a list of commercial multicultural and diversity resources supporting multicultural research was created. Twenty-eight databases in the humanities and social sciences were identified using publisher announcements, recommendations from librarians, and current database ownership from the author's institution. Bibliographic databases and full-text digital collections had to focus primarily on ethnic and racial groups, women and gender studies, or gay and lesbian studies to be included on the list. Titles were excluded if they were not electronically accessible or had been on the market less than six months. Decisions were also made to balance the number of databases covering archival and current journal articles and digital collections in Table 1.

Twenty-three of twenty-eight potential databases were selected including nine databases with a printed index, four online databases, eight digital collections, and two aggregated databases. A list of the databases not selected at

Table 1. Selected Multicultural Databases

Database Titles
African Wide
Asian American Drama
Bibliography of Asian Studies Online (BAS)
Bibliography of Native North Americans (BNNA)
African American Biographical Database (AABD)
Black Drama
Black Short Fiction
Black Studies Database
Black Thought and Culture (BTC)
Chicano Database
Contemporary Women's Issues (CWI)
Ethnic NewsWatch
Gender Studies Database
GenderWatch
Gerritsen Collection Women's History Online
Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)
Index Islamicus
Index to Jewish Periodicals
International Index to Black Periodicals (IIBP)
Latin American Women Writers
Latino Literature
LGBT Life
Women's Studies International

Table 2. Sources Not Selected

E-resources not selected
African-American Poetry
African-American Song
Native American Indian Biographical Database
Alternative Press Index
Women and Social Movements

the time of the study appears in Table 2. They were excluded because of narrow scope, newness on the market, or were simply overlooked.

The largest group of resources was traditional print indexes converted to electronic form. Those included: Bibliography of Asian Studies Online (BAS), Bibliography of Native North Americans (BNNA), Black Studies Database, Chicano Database, Hispanic American Periodicals (HAPI), Index Islamicus, Index to Jewish Periodicals, International Index to Black Periodicals (IIBP), and Women's Studies International. The databases selected were Contemporary Women's Issues, Ethnic NewsWatch, GenderWatch, and GLBT Life, now renamed LGBT Life. All of these resources provide access to subject-specific journals, newsletters, and newspapers that are difficult to find in print. Digital collections chosen include African American Biographical Dictionary (AABD,) Asian American Drama, Black Drama, Black Short Fiction, Black Thought and Culture (BTC), Gerritsen Collection Women's Studies, Latin American Women Writers, and Latino Literature. There were two aggregated databases, African Studies, now renamed African Wide and Gender Studies.

The library catalogs of 111 U.S. and Canadian ARL libraries were searched for ownership of these databases between October and December 2005. The search was repeated during the same period in 2008. Title searches were done in the OPACs and the alphabetical list of databases or e-resources. World-Cat was searched to verify ownership and ensure accuracy. Alternative titles were also searched for some resources; for example, GenderWatch was also listed as Gender NewsWatch and GNW. There was also inconsistency with Women's Studies International, formerly known as WRI, Women's Resources International (LaGuardia 2005).

Results

Databases

Results revealed the top five databases most subscribed to by ARL libraries in 2005 were Ethnic NewsWatch, HAPI, Chicano Database, Index Islamicus, and Black Drama. Eighty-seven libraries, or 74 percent owned Ethnic NewsWatch

and 74 (67 percent) subscribed to HAPI. Chicano Database was subscribed to by 53 (48 percent), Index Islamicus 52 (47 percent), and Black Drama 47 (42 percent). The results in 2008 were Ethnic NewsWatch 93 (83 percent), BAS 84 (76 percent), HAPI 83 (75 percent), Contemporary Women's Issues 81 (73 percent), and Index Islamicus 72 (65 percent) (see Figure 1).

In 2005, 50 percent, or 55 ARL libraries owned two of the databases: Ethnic NewsWatch and HAPI. By 2008, 50 percent had acquired eight databases: Ethnic NewsWatch, BAS, HAPI, Index Islamicus, Contemporary Women's Issues, Black Drama, Gender Watch, and Women's Studies International.

Gender Studies Database, Latin American Women Writers, and Latin Literature had the fewest subscriptions in 2005. These databases were released in 2004 or later, with Latin American Women Writers electronically available in 2005. These recent additions to the market may have resulted in the lower number of subscriptions. This is further supported by the increase in ownership of these products in 2008. Latin American Woman Writers almost doubled in ownership and Gender Studies nearly tripled, moving from ten to twenty-eight subscriptions. Latino Literature did triple in ownership from eleven libraries to thirty-five in 2008 (Figure 1).

The total number of databases subscribed to in 2005 and 2008 was 755 and 1,101, respectively. The average number of databases owned by research libraries in 2008 was 9.91, an increase from 6.79 in 2005. Overall, there has been a 45.8 percent increase in the ownership and purchase of multicultural databases between 2005 and 2008. This is astonishing in light of the decreases in library material budgets and the rising cost of electronic material.

Numerous factors may have influenced the increase in the number of subscriptions, including vendor, cost, area studies programs, and length of time on the market. The databases that doubled or tripled in subscriptions were Asian American Drama, BAS, BTC, Contemporary Women's Issues, Gender Studies Database, LGBT Life, Index to Jewish Periodicals, and Latino Literature. The following databases saw moderate increase: African Wide, BNNA, Black Drama, Black Short Fiction, Black Studies Database, Chicano Database, Ethnic NewsWatch, Gender Watch, Gerritsen Collection, HAPI, Index to Islamicus, Latin American Women Writers, and Women's Studies International.

On the opposite end, ownership of AABD and IIBP decreased. The decrease in IIBP could be related to the availability of newer products like Black Studies Center produced by, ProQuest/Chadwyck. Black Studies Center integrates IIBP, the Schomberg Collection, and the coveted archives of the *Chicago Defender* newspaper. Similar resources include Greenwood Mosaic Experience–African American Experience and Oxford African American Studies Center. All three of these products contain biographies, primary and secondary resources, and reference tools on the African-American experience.
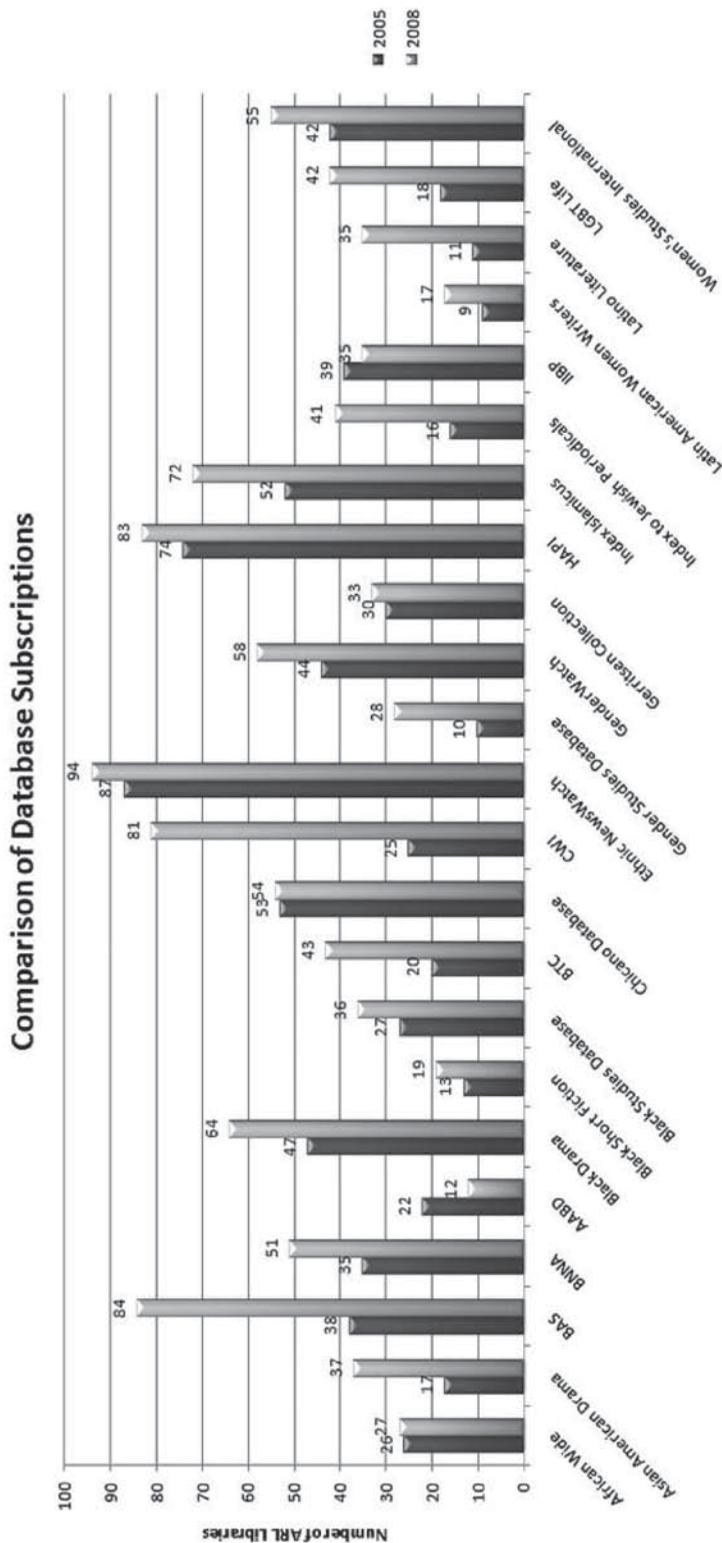
Figure 1. Comparison of database subscriptions.

Vendors

In 2005, there were twelve database vendors represented. This number was reduced to nine in 2008. National Information Services Corporation (NISC) was purchased by EBSCO in late October 2008 (PRWeb 2008), and RLG became a part of OCLC Firstsearch in 2006. Silverplatter Ovid apparently dropped BNNA; however, BNNA is available on EBSCO. Between 2005 and 2008 the OCLC FirstSearch and ESBCO were the only vendors that increased the number of available databases. There does not appear to be a direct correlation between the increase in the database subscriptions and the change in vendor. At the time the data was gathered in 2005, six (26 percent) of the databases were provided by Alexander Street Press (ASP), four (17 percent) by NISC, followed by EBSCO and Chadwyck-Healy separate from ProQuest. At one time, Ovid/Silverplatter and FirstSearch OCLC carried a large number of databases, but of the long list of databases, Silverplatter/Ovid only provided access to BNNA and OCLC FirstSearch to Contemporary Women's Issues. HAPI and BAS are still produced and accessed through UCLA and the University of Michigan.

ASP is a relatively new producer of bibliographic and digital collections and appears to have cornered the multicultural literature market. ASP is a spinoff of Chadwyck-Healey, which also produces multicultural digital collections (Kuyper-Rushing 2002). ASP was just arriving on the scene in 2000, three of the collections have received recognition since then. Asian American Drama received the Library Journal Award for 2003. Black Drama and BTC were awarded the Choice Awards in 2004 and 2005, respectively (Alexander Street Press 2009a, b, c).

ARL Libraries

No library owned all of the databases on the list of resources in 2005 and 2008. The top five libraries subscribing to more than half of the databases were University of Arizona (74 percent), Harvard, Indiana University, Princeton, and Arizona State in 2005 (see Table 3). The average ARL library owned six titles in 2005. The range of ownership was one database, owned by five libraries, to seventeen databases owned by a single institution (Arizona).

After three years, the top five 5 universities were Princeton, Harvard, Indiana, Arizona, and Columbia. During the interval, the average ARL library subscriptions increased to nine titles. The range in ownership was from one (only two libraries) to twenty-one databases held by Princeton. The number of ARL libraries that subscribed to more than half, or twelve or more titles, was thirty-nine (35 percent) in 2008. This number increased from ten (9 percent) libraries in 2005.

Overall, ARL libraries are investing in multicultural e-resources. An overwhelming eighty-nine libraries (80 percent) experienced an increase in these

Table 3. ARL Libraries Subscriptions 2005, 2008

ARL Libraries	2005	2008	Percentage
Princeton University	15	21	28.57%
Harvard University	15	19	21.05%
Indiana University	15	19	21.05%
University of Arizona	17	19	10.53%
Columbia University Libraries	12	18	33.33%
Northwestern University Library	11	18	38.89%
University of California-San Diego	14	18	22.22%
New York University	13	17	23.53%
University of California-Irvine	11	17	35.29%
Temple University	10	16	37.50%
Universityof Alberta	9	16	43.75%
University of California-Davis	11	16	31.25%
University of Minnesota	9	16	43.75%
Yale University	11	16	31.25%
Ohio State University	9	15	40.00%
Ohio University	9	15	40.00%
University of California-Santa Barbara	9	15	40.00%
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	10	15	33.33%
York University	7	15	53.33%
Emory University	13	14	7.14%
University of Western Ontario	5	14	64.29%
Arizona State University	14	13	−7.69%
Cornell University	11	13	15.38%
Duke University	10	13	23.08%
Johns Hopkins University	12	13	7.69%
Tulane University	3	13	76.92%
University of California Riverside	5	13	61.54%
University of California-Berkeley	10	13	23.08%
University of Iowa	8	13	38.46%
University of Notre Dame	5	13	61.54%
University of Texas	9	13	30.77%
University of Wisconsin-Madison	9	13	30.77%
University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign	8	13	38.46%
McGill University Libraries	7	12	41.67%
University of California-Los Angeles	11	12	8.33%
University of Cincinnati Libraries	5	12	58.33%
University of Massachusetts	7	12	41.67%
University of Southern California	7	12	41.67%
Vanderbilt University	7	12	41.67%
State University of New York-Albany	7	11	36.36%
Syracuse University	8	11	27.27%
Texas A&M University Libraries	10	11	9.09%
University of Chicago	10	11	9.09%
University of Florida	7	11	36.36%
University of Oregon	8	11	27.27%
Washington University-St. Louis	6	11	45.45%
Michigan State University	11	10	−10.00%
University of Saskatchewan	4	10	60.00%
University of British Columbia	4	10	60.00%
University of Guelph	2	10	80.00%
University of Houston	7	10	30.00%
University of Kansas	4	10	60.00%
University of Maryland	4	10	60.00%

(Continued)

Table 3. ARL Libraries Subscriptions 2005, 2008 *(Continued)*

ARL Libraries	2005	2008	Percentage
University of Oklahoma	6	10	40.00%
Boston College	9	9	0.00%
Brigham Young University	7	9	22.22%
Brown University	10	9	−11.11%
Case Western Reserve University	3	9	66.67%
Dartmouth College	11	9	−22.22%
Florida State University Libraries	6	9	33.33%
Pennsylvania State University Libraries	5	9	44.44%
Queen's University	1	9	88.89%
University of Louisville	7	9	22.22%
University of Miami	4	9	55.56%
University of Pennsylvania	4	9	55.56%
University of Utah	5	9	44.44%
University of Waterloo	3	9	66.67%
Colorado State University	8	8	0.00%
Kent State University Libraries	4	8	50.00%
McMaster University	3	8	62.50%
Rice University	9	8	−12.50%
Rutgers University	7	8	12.50%
State University of New York-Buffalo	4	8	50.00%
University of Illinois-Chicago	5	8	37.50%
University of Manitoba	2	8	75.00%
University of Michigan	11	8	−37.50%
University of Toronto	6	8	25.00%
University of Virginia	4	8	50.00%
Boston University	6	7	14.29%
Georgetown University	8	7	−14.29%
Iowa State University	7	7	0.00%
Purdue University	6	7	14.29%
State University of New York-Stony Brook	3	7	57.14%
University of Delaware	8	7	−14.29%
University of Georgia	2	7	71.43%
University of Kentucky	4	7	42.86%
University of Nebraska Lincoln	6	7	14.29%
University of New Mexico	4	7	42.86%
University of Rochester	5	7	28.57%
University of Washington	8	7	−14.29%
Virginia Tech	4	7	42.86%
University of Alabama	5	6	16.67%
University of Colorado	4	6	33.33%
University of Pittsburgh	5	6	16.67%
Louisiana State University	1	5	80.00%
North Carolina State University	3	5	40.00%
University of Tennessee-Knoxville	4	5	20.00%
Howard University Libraries	7	4	−42.86%
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	4	25.00%
Southern Illinois University	3	4	25.00%
Washington State University	2	4	50.00%
Auburn University	3	3	0.00%
Texas Tech University Libraries	1	3	66.67%
University of Connecticut	3	3	0.00%
Wayne State University	3	3	0.00%
George Washington University	8	2	−75.00%

(Continued)

Table 3 ARL Libraries Subscriptions 2005, 2008 *(Continued)*

ARL Libraries	2005	2008	Percentage
Oklahoma State University Library	3	2	−33.33%
University of Hawaii	2	2	0.00%
University of Missouri Columbia	3	2	−33.33%
Georgia Institute of Technology	1	1	0.00%
University of South Carolina	1	1	0.00%

titles over the three-year period. The range of the increase was from one to ten titles. The library with the largest increase was Tulane, which increased from three to thirteen titles in 2008. In contrast, only thirteen libraries (12 percent) reduced the number of titles from 2005–2008. Those thirteen reduced from one to six titles. The largest decrease was at George Washington University, which decreased from eight titles to two, keeping Ethnic NewsWatch and Black Drama. Nine libraries (8 percent) stayed the same after three years.

Discussion

In 2008, the titles owned by 50 percent of libraries are an interesting mixture of multicultural and diversity titles. These titles were Ethnic NewsWatch (93), BAS (84), HAPI (83), Contemporary Women's Issues (81), Index Islamicus (72), Black Drama (64), GenderWatch (58), and Women's Studies International (55). A majority of the titles are bibliographic databases. Ethnic NewsWatch and GenderWatch are unique because no print counterparts exist and minority presses are covered. Both databases are essential to libraries because of the coverage of literature not traditionally available (Fang 2002).

It is also interesting that Black Drama, a digital collection of African-American plays, has more subscriptions than IIBP and Black Studies Database. IIBP is the sole electronic index for current African-American journals, 1998 to the present, with a number of full-text journals. On the other hand, Black Studies Database: Kaiser Index to Black Resources provides access to references 1948–1986 once available through NISC (Pillow 1999). Further research must be conducted to identify the factors that led to the decisions to purchase digital collections over bibliographic databases.

Magazines for Libraries

After data collection, *Magazines for Libraries*, 14th Edition (2006) and 17th Edition (2009) were consulted by subject area, because it claims "to identify core indexes in every nook and cranny of publishing" (LaGuardia 2005). *Magazines for Libraries* was used to validate and refine the list of multicultural in-

dexes and abstracts. Subject entries provide a statement by the reviewer, list of basic periodicals, list of basic abstracts and indexes, and brief annotations for the journal titles. The following topics were consulted for the list of basic abstracts and indexes: African Studies; African American; Asian American; Asian and the Pacific; Ethnic Studies; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender; Gender Studies; Middle East; Latin America and Spain; Latino Studies; and Native Americans. There was no heading for Women's Studies in the 14th and 17th Editions (LaGuardia 2005, 2008).

There were few differences between lists of basic abstracts and indexes. Thirteen of the twenty-three selected databases were included under basic abstracts and indexes (see Table 4).

It was expected that Ethnic NewsWatch would be listed under every heading in *Magazines for Libraries* because of the journal coverage of seven ethnic groups (African American/Caribbean/African, Native groups, Hispanic, Jewish, European/Eastern Europe, Arab/Middle Eastern, Multiethnic) from the native and minority presses. In the 2006 edition, however, Ethnic News-

Table 4. Databases in *Magazines for Libraries*

Subject	Magazines for Libraries	
	2006	2009
Africa	African Studies, now Africa-Wide NiPAD	Africa Wide
African-American Studies	Black Studies on Disc	Black Studies on Disc
	IIBP	Ethnic NewsWatch
	IIBP Full-text	IIBP
	Ethnic NewsWatch	IIBP full text
Asia and the Pacific	BAS	BAS
Asian American	Ethnic NewsWatch	Ethnic NewsWatch
Ethnic Studies	None listed	Ethnic NewsWatch
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	GLBT Life	LGBT Life
	GenderWatch	GenderWatch
	Alternative Press Index	
Gender Studies	Contemporary Women's Issues	Contemporary Women's Issues
	Women's Studies International	Women's Studies International
		GenderWatch
Latin America and Spain	HAPI	HAPI
Latino Studies	Chicano Database	Chicano Database
	HAPI	HAPI
	Alternative Press Index	Alternative Press Index
		Ethnic NewsWatch
Middle East	Index Islamicus	Index Islamicus
	Index to Jewish Periodicals	Index to Jewish Periodicals
Native Americans	Alternative Press Index	Alternative Press Index
	Ethnic NewsWatch	Ethnic NewsWatch

Table 5. List of Multicultural Titles

Database Titles
African Wide NiPad
Alternative Press Index (API)
Bibliography of Asian Studies Online (BAS)
Black Studies Database
Black Drama
Chicano Database
Contemporary Women's Issues (CWI)
Ethnic Newswatch
GenderWatch
LGBT Life
Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)
Index Islamicus
Index to Jewish Periodicals
International Index to Black Periodicals (IIBP)

Watch was not even listed under Ethnic Studies. The omission of BNNA and Gender Studies is also interesting.

The selected multicultural databases (African Wide, Black Studies Database, Chicano Database, Contemporary Women's Issues, Ethnic NewsWatch, HAPI, IIBP, Index Islamicus, Index to Jewish Periodicals, LGBT Life) are validated by *Magazines for Libraries*. One index that should have been included was API. *Magazines for Libraries* lists this resource under Native Americans and Latino Studies. Over the years, API has covered nonmainstream research areas and should have been considered in the original list of multicultural resources. Therefore, the recommended list of multicultural resources are eight titles owned by 50 percent of ARL libraries from the selected list and six from *Magazines for Libraries*: African Wide, API, BAS, Black Drama, Black Studies Database, Chicano Database, Contemporary Women's Issues, Ethnic NewsWatch, GenderWatch, HAPI, IIBP, Index Islamicus, Index to Jewish Periodicals, and LGBT Life (see Table 5).

Conclusion

This exploratory research provides a benchmark for libraries committed to diversity in collection development of electronic resources. This recommended list contains both bibliographic databases and digital collections to meet the needs of students and faculty. It attempts to explore the increased access of these resources in library electronic resources. Previous research validates the problems with indexing, consistent terminology, and coverage of journals, but reducing the number of sources searched can decrease the time and frustration of the researcher. Multiple databases should be consulted for mul-

ticultural research. However additional research is needed to evaluate the accuracy and thorough coverage of journals in the ethnic and mainstream databases. As budgets are stretched, libraries need to know which databases to purchase to benefit their academic community.

Although the cost to acquire multicultural resources impacts ownership, the cost does not appear to have been a barrier for many institutions during this three-year period. Vendors of multicultural databases give libraries options that fit their budget. It will be interesting to see what role cost will play in the future, as libraries will need to make difficult decisions about key resources. This information may provide leverage for libraries to request provisions for these electronic resources. The implication for database vendors is to package their products to provide incentives for academic libraries, including both bibliographic and digital collections. Publishers are offering competitive packages with additional reference resources from Greenwood Press, Oxford, and Accessible Archives.

Consequently it was refreshing to find that academic libraries are subscribing to these databases and digital collections. Overall there was a 45.8 percent increase over three years in subscriptions to resources on this list. Assessment of these resources in the future will be essential to determine usage, coverage, and direct links to area studies. Using *Magazines for Libraries* and the top databases owned by ARL libraries to determine multicultural electronic resources is a good place to begin supporting multicultural and diversity research.

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