

Using SFX Reports To Help Your Library Make Collections Decisions

- What reports are available?
- Will learn about types of SFX statistical data.
- Reports relevant to serials collection decisions.
- Pros and cons of implementing.

Overview

- SFX offers prepackaged statistical queries.
- Can be run on demand or on a schedule
- See Admin module “Statistics”, then “SFX Queries” area.

SFX Terminology to understand reports.

- Queries= Reports
- Source= usually an abstracting & indexing database enabled for SFX OpenURL. For example, Google Scholar or PsycInfo
- Target= full text or additional information resource. For example, JSTOR or “DocDel_Local”
- Can be both. Ex. Academic Search Premier.

SFX Terminology to understand reports.

- Request= click on a “GO” or SFX menu producing button.
- Click-Through= drill down via an SFX menu to get to full text or more info.
- Relative Date Range or Specific Date Range. (Note SFX usage data stored for current yr & 1 prior year. One day lag.)

SFX Queries for collection analysis

- Query 9 Number of Click-Throughs for One Particular Journal.
- Query 12 Journal requested but have no full text. **Combine with ILL requests very powerful argument to get or expand online journals.
- Query 19 Most Popular Journals.

SFX Queries for collection analysis

- Query 2 targets- Number of Requests and Click-Throughs per Source.
- Query 6 – Top target services by requests.
- Query 7- Top target services by Click-Throughs .

Pros and cons of reports

- Way to measure patron activity otherwise not visible in a 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Automatic generation possible once a month: use “schedule button”.
- Only a few minutes of work to set up and run.
- Can compare results over time. In fact probably wise to do so.
- Great way to add to evidence based decision making.

Pros and cons of SFX reports

- Disadvantages: jargon and complex to explain.
- Not all usage for several reasons.
- Targets and Sources change over time.
- Comparison with other usage data not always feasible given different definitions.
- Annoying “not founds” items and “false positives” like Dissertation Abstracts.

SFX Statistical Queries Weirdness

- Why “nothing founds” or “no title” are so popular? Either no ISSN or no valid title/ JTITLE.
- Incomplete metadata or inaccurate data in source citation. Often in combination with sloppy OpenURL compliance.
- Human error in typing or confusion.
- Serials without ISSNs especially older ones.

Summary & Next steps

- Useful data available right now as part of your SFX instance.
- Consider using SFX statistical queries to aid serials collection decisions.
- Check documentation, journal articles & blog for more info.
- What about books (Query 14)? About custom reports?

Where to Get More Information

- CARLI SFX web site. See <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/sfx/sfx-sysdocs/>
Links to Brooks-Kieffer’s presentations & SFX manuals.
- Jamene Brooks-Kieffer blog “Data Stories”
<http://ksulib.typepad.com/sfxdoc/>
- SFX Statistical Reports: A Primer for Collection Assessment Librarians. by Tina E. Chrzastowski; Michael Norman; Sarah Elizabeth Miller.
DOI: 10.1080/01462670903177912
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Thanks!

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