Planning without a Plan: In a Consortium & At a Community College

Linda Crook
Orbis Cascade Alliance Shared Content & Technical Services Team Chair
Lane Community College Interim Library Director

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Planning Consortially:
Trying to plan when there are too many cooks

- The Orbis Cascade Alliance is a nonprofit consortium of 39 colleges and universities in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.
- The Alliance is governed by a Council of member library deans and directors, with leadership and fiduciary responsibility vested in a Board of Directors drawn from and elected by Council. Council approves the budget and all strategic initiatives. Each member institution appoints a library director to Council and each Council member has one vote.

Reviewing “Policies”: The Last Copy & 3-Copy Guidelines

- In 2016, the Alliance Shared Content Team reviewed two guidelines for currency and usability
- Team representatives from the institutions discussed the guidelines at the Alliance Summer Meeting
- Takeaways from the session: the guidelines are useful, but practicality of implementation questionable

Last Copy Guidelines

- 2008: https://www.orbiscascade.org/file_viewer.php?id=1391
- When considering an item for withdrawal, library staff should routinely consult Summit to determine if the copy is the last one held in the consortium.
- If in the professional judgment of staff, the title is in usable condition and adds value to the Summit collection it should be retained by the library or offered to other Alliance members.
- Libraries are encouraged to put a staff note in the item record indicating “Last copy in Summit”.

Last Copy Guideline: Revision

- 2017: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Umpl2SjOITS4qWYPN95EfWuzODiSKR0o9nW8_UcrftU/edit
- If an item is identified as a last copy, libraries are encouraged to put an internal note in the item record indicating “Last copy in Summit”. This may assist with future local deselection projects.

3-Copy Threshold

- https://www.orbiscascade.org/threshold/
- Threshold pilot in 2011 encouraged participating institutions to limit duplication in the consortium to 3 copies
- Purpose: To free funds to purchase materials that will increase the depth and breadth of the Orbis Cascade Alliance collection
- Q: Why is the program voluntary?
  A: Serving our library users is our first priority. Some titles need to be duplicated beyond 3 copies within the consortial libraries to meet local needs.

3-Copy Threshold: Revision

- Local needs take precedence over these guidelines. Some titles will need to be duplicated beyond three copies to meet local obligations.
- At times, geographic distribution of the existing copies should also be considered in order to minimize courier delivery times.
- Between 2011-2016, Alliance libraries purchased one or two copies of a title 70% of the time. This demonstrates that fewer than 3 copies is often sufficient across the Alliance.

Policies vs. Guidelines: The Tyranny of Flexibility

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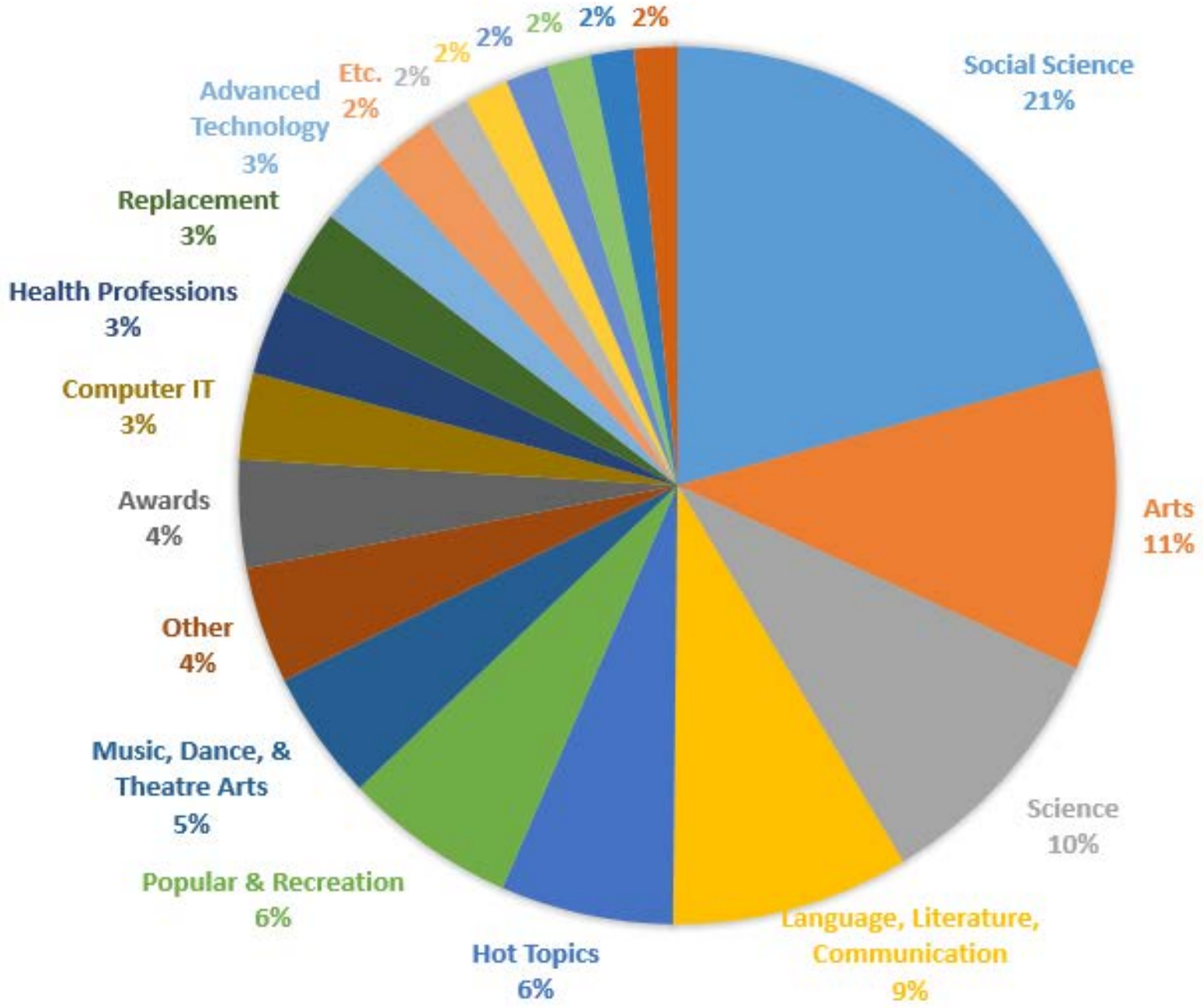
Unplanning Locally: Trying to plan when there's no head chef

- Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon
- There have been 4 heads of the Library in the past 4 years, 3 of whom have been interim
- We seem to be always waiting for the next new leader before we tackle a revision of the collection development policy

Planning through Fund Allocations

- How do we balance academic needs with student desire for high-demand items like popular DVDs or books?
- Through allocations.


Social Science
21%
Arts
11%
Science
10%
Language, Literature, Communication
9%
Hot Topics
6%
Popular & Recreation
6%
Music, Dance, & Theatre Arts
5%
Other
4%
Awards
4%
Computer IT
3%
Health Professions
3%
Replacement
3%
Advanced Technology
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