International News Resources Assessment Project

Gabriel Mann
Michigan Library Scholar

Shevon Desai
Project Mentor

July 27, 2018
Hello!

I am Gabriel Mann

University of Michigan Class of 2019
International Studies & Asian Languages and Cultures
Nam Center Research Fellow
Project Overview

- Explore the kinds of news content the library is able to provide
- More effectively document the process of acquiring international news resources
- Have a better understanding of the news landscape internationally
In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.
15,000

Number of ‘News Sources’ research guide page views in the last year
Objectives

◉ Become more readily able to describe the scope of the international news content provided by the library
◉ Better able to articulate campus needs in regard to news content
◉ Better documentation of the library’s current practices in terms of acquiring news content from all over the world
What I Worked On

- Comparative evaluation of other university research guides
- Use case brief
- Survey
- Interviews
- News content ‘watchlist’
- Executive summary
Challenges

- What kind of questions should be asked?
- What is the best method of organizing the library’s international news content?
- Visualizing Survey Results
- Qualtrics
Solutions

Creativity
- Brainstorm new search and organization tools

Compare and contrast other academic library guides
- How do other institutions organize their news content?

Utilize content selectors
- Interview International and Asian Studies librarians
Most Helpful News Aggregator Databases

- Lexis Nexis
- Academic
- Press Reader
- ProQuest News & Current Events
- InfoTrac Newsstand
- Factiva
- Access World News (NewsBank)
- World News Connection
- Foreign Broadcast Information Service
- None of the above
Satisfaction with library's news content offerings (in their area)
Conclusions & Findings

◉ U-M Library is able to provide the most widely utilized news resources across a wide range of regions and countries

◉ Issues with acquiring new news content stem from third-party vendors who...
  ○ Prohibit their content from being distributed due to factors such as copyright claim
  ○ Do not offer what patrons need or censor their content

◉ Each academic library has its own unique organization system that suits the needs of the university’s patrons.
Lessons Learned

- An understanding of the organization, scale, services, and work within itself in the U-M Library
- How International Studies and Asia Library librarians each work to acquire news content, manage their resources, and make them discoverable for patrons
- Project Management Skills
- Professional Communication
Potential Next Steps

◉ Continue updating the news resources guides
◉ Propose ideas for new search tools
◉ Continually update ‘Watch List’ with news content that could be important in the future
Thanks!

Any questions?