

Using CCM Tools to Benchmark Cardiff Metropolitan University's Artists' Book Collection - June 2016 (Revised November 2016)

Benchmarking

The Artists' book collection was established in 2010 as a teaching collection and currently comprises 192 catalogued volumes.

It consists of purchased and donated materials dating from the 1960s.

Some of the volumes are one-off unique works with others forming part of limited edition runs, but all of the works are selected to showcase the immense variety of the artists' book genre.

The rarity and uniqueness of some of the Collection is already apparent but to quantify this a benchmarking exercise against older, more established, Artists' books collections was required. There is a need for data to support the case for increased resources to improve our local collections storage, use and discoverability.

The Artists' books collections of national significance (as identified by ARLIS in the *Artists' Books – a cataloguers' manual* (2013)) are those held by the V&A (Victoria & Albert Museum National Art Library), the Tate, Southampton University (Winchester School of Art), Glasgow School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of the Arts, London.

As COPAC includes records from the V&A, the Tate and the University of Southampton plus many other institutions CCM Tools provided an easy and quick method of commencing the benchmarking exercise.

Methodology

In June 2016 an Advanced Repository search in our LMS (ExLibris' Alma) produced a spreadsheet of the catalogued titles in our Artists' book collection. (Analytics in Alma can also be used to generate a report.)

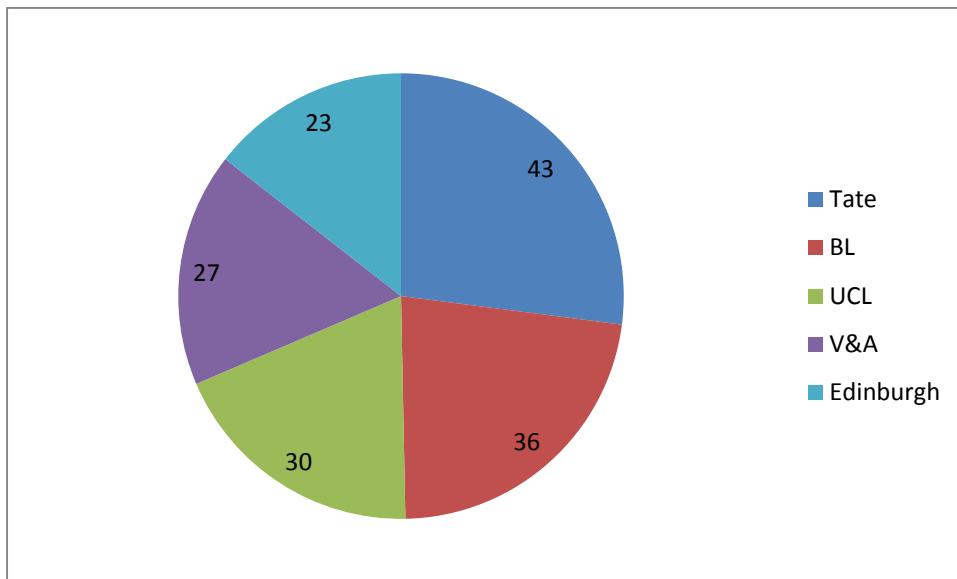
Of the 192 titles retrieved only 60 had ISBNs so these were extracted into a .csv file and a batch ISBN search carried out in CCM Tools.

Deduplication of the search results was not selected because it can be useful to look at the variations in cataloguing practice for the same title at different holding libraries. For institutions starting to collect resources and considering the options for cataloguing practice and policy it is invaluable to review records that have already been created.

For the remaining 132 works without ISBNs, keyword searching for individual titles was used to check for holdings at other institutions.

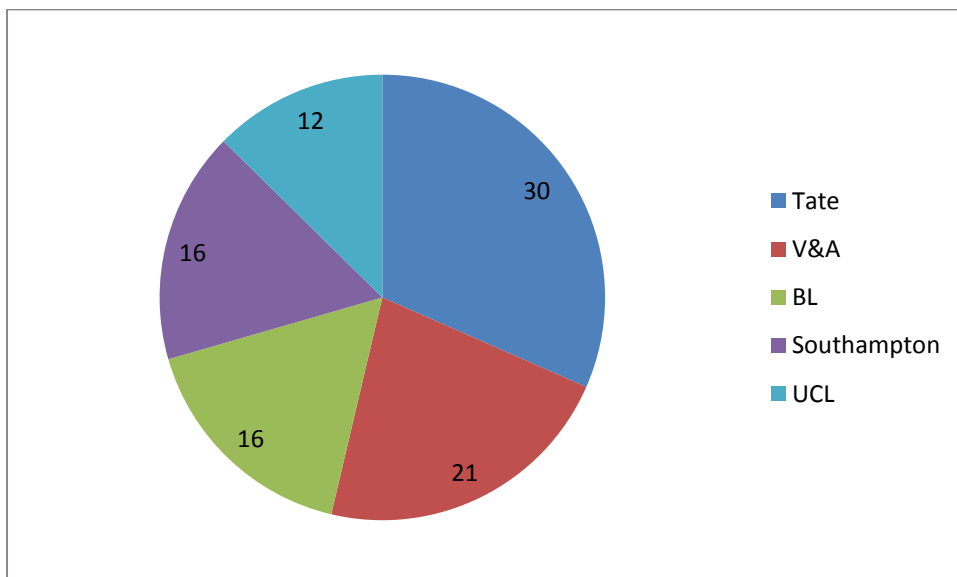
Results - Bulk ISBN Search

- 5 of the 60 titles with ISBNs were not held by any COPAC contributing libraries.
- The top five libraries in the holdings overlap analysis were the Tate, the British Library, University College London, V&A and Edinburgh University.



Results – Keyword Search (Non-ISBN Titles)

- 26 of the 132 non-ISBN titles were not held by any COPAC contributing libraries.
- The top five libraries in the holdings overlap analysis were:



Benchmarking Results

- 16%, that's 31 of 192 titles catalogued to date, are not held in COPAC contributing libraries which emphasises the rarity and importance of some of our acquisitions.

- There is an encouraging overlap of holdings between the institutions that are considered to hold collections of national significance and the Cardiff Metropolitan collection.
- The exercise revealed the significance of the artists' books collection held by the British Library.
- Titles by certain artists, acquired by Cardiff Metropolitan, complement those purchased by other institutions. The combined holdings comprise the beginnings of a national artists' book collection with the possibility of collaboration to highlight the existence and diversity of these materials. An important resource for art and design researchers.
- The next stage will be to benchmark the Cardiff Metropolitan collection against those of Glasgow School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of the Arts, London, who do not contribute to COPAC. This will provide further indicators of the importance of the volumes that have been acquired to date and perhaps useful information to inform future purchasing decisions.

CCM Tools – Benefits

- CCM Tools provides an easy way of benchmarking collections against institutions who contribute records to COPAC.
- Bulk searching of works with ISBNs is quick and easy.
- Export search results data for analysis and reporting.
- Accessing past searches, using the Batch Search History feature, enables quick review and refinement of results.
- The data visualisation tools are an excellent way of getting snapshots of the search results and informing possible search refinements.
- The ability to download records in XML or brief Marc formats is a useful way of obtaining records for use locally if you are licensed to do so by COPAC.

CCM Tools – Future Developments?

- Increase the number of libraries who contribute to COPAC. E.g. there are collections of Artists' books held in other institutions. A truly national database would provide a more comprehensive research and collection management resource. Potentially less time would be required to identify rich research collections and carry out collection management analysis.
- Include archival records in recognition of the fact that some resources (e.g. Artists' books) may be catalogued and held in Archives rather than libraries.

- Investigate sharing original cataloguing for the benefit of the wider cataloguing community. E.g. Catalogue records for Artists' books are not often commercially available. Sourcing a record from another library would ensure quicker cataloguing and resource discovery.

Jane Daniels

Bibliographical Librarian, Cardiff Metropolitan University.