If You Build It, Will they Come:
Creating and sustaining a borrowable collection of digital equipment

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Miami University Libraries
Overview

- Background: University and Libraries
- Equipment
- Usage
- Challenges 😞 + Solutions (?)
- Questions + Discussion
Miami University: Institutional Background

- NOT in Florida
- 15,081 Undergraduates / 2,476 Graduates
- Small town / Rural surroundings
- Residential campus
Miami University: Libraries

- Main campus: Central facility, 3 branches
- Regional campus
- Shared ILS / Shared loan rules + procedures (mostly....)
- In-house systems department
Central Service Point Background

- 24/7 Operations during academic year
- 198,274 checkouts per year
- 4,000 informational transactions per year
- 5.5 FTE desk staff + 6.5 FTE student employees
In the beginning...

- Digital Cameras and Laptops
- Money from library budget
Equipment: Laptop & Tablets

- Laptops (21 Windows, 30 Mac)
- Tablets (31 iPads, 6 Nexus Tablets, 6 Chromebooks)
- Power cords (46 Mac, 47 Dell, 13 HP)
Equipment: Cameras & Recorders

- Digital Video Cameras (76, of 6 types)
- Digital Still Cameras (8)
- Digital Audio Recorders (28, of 3 types)
- Microphones (16)
- Tripods (16, of 2 types)
- Tripod dollies
- Steadicam + weights
Equipment: Miscellaneous

- Headphones (76)
- Calculators (14 Graphing, 27 Financial)
- Projectors (23, of 2 types)
- Computer mice (4)
- Foreign language translators (10)
- Electrical extension cords (2)
- Portable Lectern w/microphone (1)
- Phone chargers
Usage: Central Service Point+Branches

- Monographs, 29%
- Keys, 19%
- Document Delivery, 15%
- Digital Equipment, 27%
- Reserves, 9%
- Audiovisuals, 1%
Usage: Central Service Point

- Digital Equipment, 37%
- Document Delivery, 17%
- Monographs, 24%
- Reserves, 12%
- Keys, 9%
## Usage by Item Type (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mac Power Cords</td>
<td>14,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mac Laptops</td>
<td>9,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headphones</td>
<td>8,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC Laptops</td>
<td>4,962</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC Power Cords</td>
<td>4,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Chargers</td>
<td>3,781</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameras + Accessories</td>
<td>1,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPad</td>
<td>1,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculators</td>
<td>1,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Cables</td>
<td>902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Usage by Item Type (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projectors</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mice</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyboards</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Voice Recorders</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nexus Tablet</td>
<td>181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microphones</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projector Screens</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Lectern</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translators</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges + Solutions: Funding

- Library materials budget
- Student technology fee
  https://www.units.miamioh.edu/uit/tech-fee
- Materials donated from closed campus facilities
Challenges: Maintenance

- Wear + Tear from multiple users
- Multiple types of equipment
- Updates to software/OS’s
Solutions: Maintenance

- Access Services position does triage
- Systems check laptops weekdays
- Upgrades between semesters
- Acceptance that equipment will wear out 😞
Challenges: Retention

- Theft (!)
- Missed check-ins
- The “rental” problem
Solutions: Retention

- Electronic Equipment User Agreement
- Automatic overdue + fine notices
- “Morning after” emails
- Remote tracking / disabling
Challenges: Privacy

- Possibility of personal data remaining
- Inappropriate materials left behind
Solutions: Privacy

- Laptops wipe on logout
- iPads wiped on weekly updates
- Cameras wiped on check-in
- Students sometimes lose work 😞
Challenges: User Support

- Multiple varieties of equipment
- Differing levels of technical skill
- Support not a primary part of job
Solutions: User Support

- Self-training
- Instructions from manufacturer
- “Quick start” guides
- Training for staff?
Challenges: Logistics

- Storage space / Containers
- Proximity to electrical supply
- Cords can become tangled
- Equipment w/ multiple items
Challenges + Solutions: Logistics

- Charging cords / carts
- Extra batteries
- Intimate relationship w/Fire Marshall
- Barcoding only once per set of equipment
- Cords in plastic bags
Main storage for cameras, recorders. Backs have been removed from cabinets to allow access to power cords.
Mac / PC / Nexus charging station, w / power cords on top
Where many of the cables / connectors live
More cameras, connectors, and chargers.
More cables, chargers, calculators, and digital translators
Headphones – one of our hottest commodoties!
The iPad charging station
iPad charging station – we own 30, and as you can see, many were out the day that Spring Break began.
Questions / Discussion
Further Information

- http://www.users.miamioh.edu/witherre/mla-al/
- witherre@miamioh.edu