E-Resource Renewal Awareness: Using Google Calendar to Bring Selectors on Board

Timing
Assessment of subscription e-resources should be conducted well in advance of actual renewal dates. But these dates are typically buried in acquisitions modules. How are librarians to discover these dates, keep track of them, and obtain a larger overview of renewal cycles?

Programming
At Columbia University Libraries, we have constructed a program that feeds acquisitions data directly from our library management system into our shared Google Calendar. For each fund code that is used for recurring e-resource expenditures, a calendar is generated. In that calendar, each payment is represented as an event. Each payment event generates two subsequent notices, the first timed five months prior to the next renewal, and the second timed three months prior to the next renewal. To the right is a calendar view showing three e-funds: History and Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences.

Promoting
The e-fund calendars have been demonstrated to meetings of subject selectors and library division directors. They are designed to help selectors keep track of when they might want to begin assessment of a given subscription e-resource. The how of assessment requires consideration of usage data and other factors.

Three types of notices
1. Expenditure
Expenditure notices always begin with name of resource. Reminder notices always begin with the word “renew.” Key acquisitions data is included in all notices.

2. Five-Month Reminder
Occurs five months before resource is due for renewal

3. Three-Month Reminder
Occurs three months before resource is due for renewal

This poster session, including a link to the Python coding for this project, is accessible at: http://hdl.handle.net/10022/AC:P:9978

The coding was written by Nada O’Neal, Columbia University.

Agenda view by date

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed Dec 8, 2010</td>
<td>A1 day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 11, 2010</td>
<td>A1 day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 11, 2011</td>
<td>A1 day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agenda view by resource

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu May 13, 2010</td>
<td>A1 day</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sat Dec 11, 2010</td>
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<td></td>
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