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Making Connections: Using Citation Analysis to Map the Literature of Migration & Ethnic Relations

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Making Connections: Using Citation Analysis to Map the Literature of Migration & Ethnic Relations
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**RESEARCH QUESTION**
How well are the collections at Western Libraries meeting the needs of researchers in emerging interdisciplinary programs such as the Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration & Ethnic Relations (MER)?

**WHY CITATION ANALYSIS?**
Analyzing citation characteristics from a body of scholarly literature can answer key questions about the types of resources researchers use, and can be a useful tool for uncovering patterns and themes in the “literature of” an interdisciplinary field.

**METHODOLOGY**
1. Identify researchers affiliated with the MER Program: 32 from 12 departments (July 2009)
2. Collect publication data using a combination of SCOPUS, SSCI, and Google Scholar (limits: author/2003-)
3. Use RefWorks and Excel to manage and analyze citation data
4. Isolate Journal and Non-Journal reference types
5. Determine key journals as those cited 5 or more times – Also: identify contributing disciplines / subject areas (Ulrich’s); assign subject categories based on relevant Journal Citation Report (JCR) definitions
6. Categorize non-journal references as monographs or grey literature
7. Check key journals and monographs against Western Libraries holdings

**RESULTS**

**OBJECTIVE #1**
To identify the “literature of” MER.

- **PUBLICATION TYPE >1,000 citations**
  - Grey Literature: 10%
  - Books and book chapters: 22%
  - Journal articles: 68%

- **FREQUENTLY CITED KEY JOURNALS**

- **GREY LITERATURE: WIDE RANGE OF FORMATS AND TYPES**

- **MONOGRAPHS**
  - Remain an important source of information for MER researchers

- **RESULTS**
  - **PUBLIC AND SUBJECT CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH JCR**
    - **Subject categories**
      - Public health and safety
      - Environmental studies
      - Social sciences comprehensive
      - Children and youth
      - Geography
      - Political science
      - Population studies
      - Sociology
      - Business and economics
      - Medical sciences
      - Psychology
      - **Only 14% of core titles consistently cited**

- **AGE OF COLLECTION USED BY MER RESEARCHERS**
  - Rely on more recent vs. retrospective works
  - >80% cited after 1980
  - Parallels formal emergence of literature in Refugee Studies, formally established in 1982 (Skran, 2007)

**OBJECTIVE #2**
To gain an understanding of patterns or themes in the literature of MER to guide collections.

- **Key Questions:**
  1. What disciplines does the literature draw upon?
  2. What does it tell us about the age of the literature cited?

**OBJECTIVE #3**
To identify gaps in holdings to make informed recommendations regarding collections and research support.

- **RESULTS**
  - **Western Libraries holdings:**
    - 99% of key journals
    - 83% of monographs

**OBJECTIVE #4**
To apply this methodology to assess and inform collections and research support for other interdisciplinary programs.

**IN PROGRESS**
- Environment & Sustainability
  - data collected
  - analysis pending

**CONCLUSIONS**
- Confirmed strength of collection support
- Demonstrated scope of MER literature used
- Support MER through colleague collaboration

- Increase strength of liaison: Confidently make connections with faculty knowing we successfully support their research.

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

**DISCUSSIONS WITH FACULTY:**
- What are publication patterns in journals outside own discipline?

**RESEARCH SUPPORT:**
- Due to broad scope of subjects, when is collaboration necessary?

**FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO GREY LITERATURE:**
- To what extent is it discoverable?
- How is it accessed?

**METHODOLOGY:**
- Refine and streamline