

Music Collection Development at Texas A&M University Joseph D. Olivarez

Objective

The objective of this project was to evaluate a portion of the vocal music collection at Texas A&M University. To accomplish this, the user population needed to be identified, the collection development policy had to be reviewed, and materials needed to be added and withdrawn from the collection.

User Population

The collection has the potential to be used by all students, faculty, and staff of Texas A&M University, and community users in Brazos and surrounding counties.

Potential heavy users of the collection are students, faculty, and staff in the Department of Performance Studies, particularly music majors.

Texas A&M University Population

- Students – 46,618
- Faculty – 2,600
- Students in the Department of Performance Studies – 78
- Music Majors - 26

Collection Development Policy

The music collection development policy was up to date and needed little changed. The main changes involved adding the new master's program in the Department of Performance Studies as potential users of the collection and adding a section on materials the library does not collect, such as sheet music and LPs.



Collection Information

Class Ranges Examined:

M1500-M1527.8: Vocal music—Secular music—Dramatic music
M2000-M2007: Vocal music—Sacred vocal music—Dramatic music
ML1400-3275: Literature on music—History and criticism—Vocal music

Total volumes: 4309
Use Rate: 48.6%
Avg. Use Per Item: 4.5

Top Circulating Materials:

Composer	Title	Media	Historic Charges
Wagner, Richard	Die Walküre	Sound Recording	481
Verdi, Giuseppe	Otello	Sound Recording	393
	Music from the New York Stage	Sound Recording	276
Sullivan, Arthur	The Pirates of Penzance	Sound Recording	252
Berg, Alban	Wozzeck	Sound Recording	172

Formats:

- Print Books
- Scores
- Sound Recordings
- Video Recordings
- Electronic Materials

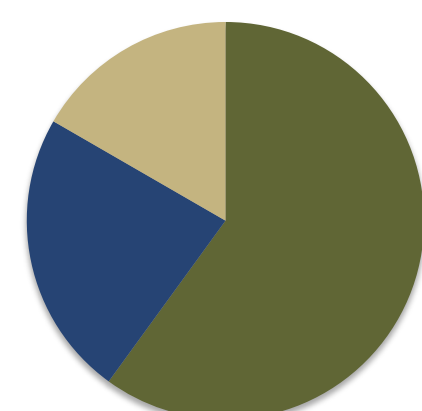
Selection

After analyzing the collection, it was clear that the library was missing some basic scores for an undergraduate music library. A \$1,000 budget was set to obtain any essential scores that the library was missing and to obtain any new materials that would benefit the collection. Overall thirty items were added to the collection.

Top 5 Items to Purchase:

Title	Composer
Madama Butterfly	Puccini, Giacomo
Ariadne auf Naxos	Strauss, Richard
Thaïs	Massenet, Jules
Lakmé	Delibes, Léo
The Ballad of Baby Doe	Moore, Douglas

Materials Added by Type



- Scores
- Sound Recordings
- Books

Selection Sources Used:

- A Basic Music Library, 3rd ed., compiled by the Music Library Association
- Gramophone Awards
- WorldCat Collection Analysis – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and University of California, Berkeley
- Pulitzer Prize for Music
- CD Hotlist, Baker and Taylor

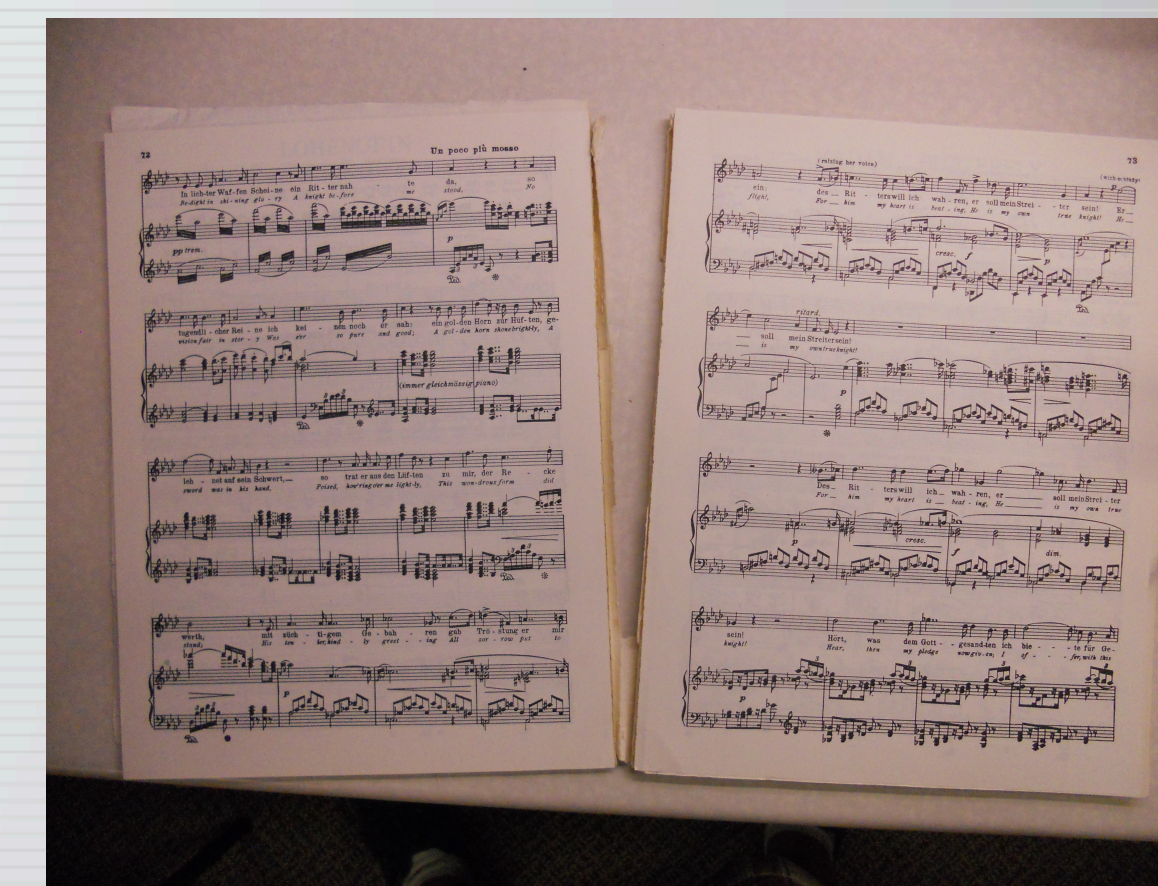
Withdraws

In all 253 items are proposed to be withdrawn based on poor condition, low use, redundant content, and outdated format.

Criteria

- Poor Condition – Any item that was not suitable for boxing or repair was withdrawn.
- Low Use- Any item that had two copies, was older than 10 years old and not used in the last 5 years was reduced to one copy.
- Redundant Content – Any item that had more than two copies were reduced to only two copies.
- Outdated – All of these materials came from the VHS collection. All items older than 10 years old and not used in the last 5 years were withdrawn, regardless of how many copies the library owned.

Outcomes : Based on the criteria outlined above, 7 items were withdrawn for poor condition, 120 items for low use, 24 items for redundant content, and 102 items for outdated format.



Conclusion

After examining the collection it became clear that some basic scores needed to be acquired and duplicates needed to be withdrawn. With a budget of \$1,000 only 30 items were able to be added to the collection. After querying the database and searching the stacks, 253 items were identified as candidates for withdraw to make room for new materials in the collection. Since the music program and the Department of Performance Studies are relatively new programs the collection has time to grow. With the addition of the scores that were suggested for purchase, the library should have all the basic scores that would be expected to be in most vocal music collections. Additionally, I propose the withdraw of duplicate low use materials be expanded to the entire music literature and VHS collections.