Increasing Browsing and Discoverability Through Virtual Bookshelves

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MLIS Capstone

ASU Library
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-4.3 million items
-Four campuses in Phoenix
-Serves over 100,000 students
-Half of these students are online

With many students being online or at different campuses, how can we make sure print collections are still browsable and engaging?

Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering
Libraries naturally collaborate with humanities-based colleges, however, this college has previously expressed interest in a partnership.
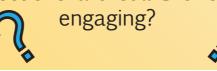
Disabilities Studies Program
Virtual book displays can raise awareness about academic programs. Faculty and other program coordinators can contribute to the selection of featured items.

Asian Pacific American Studies Program
The Library can also establish a pathway for communication that didn't previously exist between specific programs. This particular program highlights traditionally underrepresented voices.

Effects

- Collaborate with new departments and offices

- Increase online library presence
Create new opportunities for browsing

- Reach online students
Highlight select print collections

Literature review. I began by researching the importance of browsing behaviors in the learning process to inform myself and the Library's collection unit who would be responsible for curating content for these bookshelves.

Specification Document. I also explored platforms to build an application from scratch. In the end, we will be redesigning an application that was taken down last year when the Library switched to a new LSP. I have created user stories and a specification document to aid them in this redesign.

Identifying Communities. Finally, I have identified and reached out to three ASU communities who could benefit from hosting a virtual bookshelf on their web page.