Because Your Library Already Answered the Question We Have

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Yes, we have important differences. But our mission, our organizational structures, our users, our policies and procedures can have a lot in common.
Have you ever…
• Been told you need to write an accessibility policy for subscription resources?
• Needed guidance for new responsibilities, such as negotiating licenses?
• Wanted a primer on COUNTER reports and how to use them?
• Wondered how you might structure an e-book collection policy?

Even though you know other librarians like you have been faced with a very similar task, you may feel like you’re blazing trails, going in circles, all alone. Is there somebody out there that can keep me from starting from scratch?
Or maybe this? Unsure where to start. There is so much literature, so many blogs, so many ideas to filter through.
This project tries to open the hood on what other libraries are doing. Library Workflow Exchange is our answer to the question, “How are other libraries handling this?”
Library Workflow Exchange is a blog site where subject-matter experts link to, curate, tag, and describe... policies, procedures, best practices, and workflows that are found on sites all over the open web. (We can also upload submitted files, but it is conceived more as a portal rather than a repository.) You can search LWE or...
... browse by category or by tag. (We use a smaller number of broad categories [on the left] and a larger number of narrower tags.)

As you may be able to infer from the tag cloud, LWE originally highlighted topics in archives and metadata, but electronic resources is the first of what we hope are many areas that we will expand to.
Each entry has a title, attribution, descriptive text, and a link to the resource.

As you can imagine, when it’s easier to find what resources are available elsewhere, it sparks new ideas to implement locally. And when our work-in-progress is opened up to the public through sharing our own workflows, that transparency leads to better quality.
This is how we might fit into your search for workflow ideas: do what you would normally do, but add us to the list. Come to Charleston, read the literature, talk to colleagues. But see if we can help for those e-resource marketing plans, local policy statements on streaming media, accessibility primers, and other concepts and processes that you find yourselves puzzled by.
Benefits of Library Workflow Exchange

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<th>Centralized knowledgebase</th>
<th>Improves Google PageRank of original sites</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rich searching</td>
<td>Flexible, with room to grow</td>
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<td>Updates via social media</td>
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Some of the value-added benefits of using Library Workflow Exchange:
- It’s a single place where you can lift the hood and see what’s going on elsewhere
- We speak your language: find resources using the terms you’re familiar with
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to hear about the latest additions
- By linking to the sites where the content was originally posted—especially as LWE attracts more content and more users—we can (in some small way) make those sites more discoverable
- This project is still young; you can help us make it what you’d like to see it become
A Brief Look Back

LWE prototype developed by Anna Neatour and Liz Woolcott

June 2015  LWE soft-launched October 2015

Two subject editors added Early 2016

Where is this coming from? Who's involved?
By the Numbers

October 2015–October 2016

8,667 Sessions
6,481 Users
19,270 Page Views

200 posts to date
Looking to the future:
What you can do
Check out the site: libraryworkflowexchange.org. See what Library Workflow Exchange has to offer for your own processes and the decisions you're making.
Find us on Facebook and Twitter. That way you’ll be notified of every new post. You never know when just what you need will land in your lap!
Libraries are all about sharing, right? We rely on you to reach your networks of colleagues and promote what we’re trying to do. Share online, share in your library. Followers really do increase the visibility of our project. So even if we’re not covering the work you do, help us reach those who can benefit from Library Workflow Exchange. (See our handles in my last slide.)

We’ve even got stickers! Pick one up.
Let's load up LWE with content. Post your documents on a public site somewhere. At libraryworkflowexchange.org, look for the “Submit your workflows” button at the top of each page, and fill out the simple form. We rely on all you smart librarians to share your work—even your work-in-progress.
Finally, along with adding content to LWE, we’d also like to add editors. Climb aboard—there’s room for everyone! Are you an administrator and wish there were more ideas shared on how to manage effectively? Are you responsible for collections and resource sharing and would like to see how other departments are configured? Are you a technology manager and wanting documentation on ILS migrations? There are lots of needs and lots of resources—we need skilled library staff to put the two together.
Thank you!

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