2020

The Value of Local Authors: A Survey of the Mission Statements and Submission Guidelines of Local Author Collections

Rachel McMullen

The Value of Local Authors:
A Survey of the Mission Statements and Submission Guidelines of Local Author Collections
By Rachel McMullen

Introduction

At the forty-sixth annual meeting of the American Library Association in 1924 Art Reference Round Table, Ruth Wilcox discussed the need for librarians to focus their efforts on collecting information about local art and artists to make it readily available for public use. This "pioneer work" includes creating "[e]xhibits within the library of the work of local artists" as "an effective means of arousing public interest" (Wilcox, 1924, p. 297). While a collection of local work certainly has the ability to engage the immediate community, Wilcox explains that:

> It is, however, even more important as a debt to coming generations. When a city looks back over the years of its growth and attempts to write its history, there are too frequently painful gaps. This is perhaps more true in the field of art than in any other, for artists are essentially individualists; they do not organize for their own advancements nor hand down weighty archives to posterity. (p. 298)

Though Wilcox was specifically referring to visual artists and craftsmen, it is easy to include authors in this cohort of "individualists." This is especially true in the modern publishing market in which self-publishing is quickly becoming a viable means of preserving and circulating written works. In fact, a recent Bowker report on self-publishing in the United States reveals that ISBNs for self-published titles have increased 156 percent since 2012, from 394,132 ISBNs assigned in 2012 to just over a million ISBNs in 2017 (Bowker, 2018). These numbers demonstrate the increasing need for libraries to identify local authors self-publishing their work and find creative ways to deliver meaningful programming and services.

More than two decades later, England (1948) reported on the status of local author collections in *College & Research Libraries*. At the time, 175 local author collections were identified as existing in a variety of different types of libraries, with a number of these collections either merged or "regarded synonymous with 'local history collection[s]'" (p. 340). It is unclear how many local author collections exist today, with little research to draw from almost 70 years later. Thus, this study seeks to expand on England's work to fill an obvious gap in the literature while focusing on the public library as a vehicle to establish and empower local identity. Specific attention is given to local author collection policies and criteria for inclusion as mission statements and submission guidelines are examined and compared.

Purpose Statement

This research examines the mission statements and submission guidelines of local author collections in public libraries to determine in what ways these collections emphasize the communities they represent, the extent to which all members of the community are represented by the collection, and how these collections are accessed by the community.

Research Questions

R1. How many local author collections include a mission or purpose statement?

R2. How do these mission or purpose statements emphasize the relationship between the community and the collection?

R3. How are submission guidelines presented on a library's website (i.e., as a webpage or a PDF)?

R4: What, if any, restrictions exist in the submission guidelines (e.g., library cardholder, age, format of submission, genre of submission, etc.)?

R5. How do libraries provide access to local author collections?

Definitions

Collection Policy: "…a comprehensive written policy that guides the selection, deselection or weeding, and reconsideration of library resources. The most valuable selection policy is current; it is reviewed and revised on a regular basis, and it is familiar to all members of a library's staff. The policy should be approved by the library's governing board or other policy-making body and disseminated widely for understanding by all stakeholders" (ALA, 2018b)

Content Analysis: "Close analysis of a work or body of communicated information to determine its meaning and account for the effect it has on its audience. Researchers classify, quantify, analyze, and evaluate the important words, concepts, symbols, and themes in a text (or set of texts) as a basis for inferences about the explicit and implicit messages it contains, the writer(s), the audience, and the culture and time period of which it is a part" (Reitz, 2014).

Local Author Collection: Though sometimes considered synonymous with local history collections (especially in cases in which the two are merged), local author collections specifically refer to "collections of miscellaneous works which have no common denominator except that of the local birth or residence of the writers" (England, 1948, p. 340).

Special Collections: A collection of "resources in a variety of formats that are distinctive and have intrinsic value to the institution. Special areas can include rare books, genealogy materials, archives, local history, theses, and books from local authors" (ALA, 2018a).

Webometrics: Used synonymously with the term cybermetrics, a method of "[d]escription and evaluation of the impact of the Internet as a scholarly communication tool, primarily by means of quantitative analysis of Web-based scholarly and scientific communications" (Reitz, 2014).

Delimitations

This study examines local author collections in public libraries only. Accordingly, local author collections in academic or special libraries are excluded from the study. The contents of the local author collections selected for this study are not evaluated; instead, this study focuses on an examination of the mission statements and submission guidelines of the selected local author collections.

Furthermore, this study is limited to local author collections in public libraries that serve larger municipalities. This is necessary to identify a relative sample of local author collections. In addition, this study excludes the examination of local history collections, which, in some cases, collect materials donated by local authors. The history of the included local author collections is also out of scope for this study. Finally, this study does not examine how local author collections are marketed to their communities.

Assumptions

It was assumed that library websites are fully functional and provide access to the most current versions of policies related to local author collections. It was further assumed that information retrieved from library websites is accurate and up to date.

Importance of the Study

Though discussion around the library's responsibility to serve local artists can be traced as far back as 1924 (Wilcox, pp. 296-298), little research could be found related to the ways in which the library meets the unique needs of local authors. In fact, there are limited resources to assist libraries in the development and management of local author collections, despite the abundance of materials available for local history collections. The goal of this study then is to draw attention to this gap in the literature and provide an analysis of how the existing collection policies of local author collections are constructed and in what ways they may be restrictive. Local authors are an untapped resource, and this study can be used to inform how local author collections can better serve this growing community to encourage public investment in collection development. Public librarians and local authors alike

can use this study to inform the ways in which local author collections are managed and utilized.

Literature Review

Arguably the most comprehensive study to date, England (1948) provides valuable insight regarding the state of local author collections in the mid-20th century. The study examines "the location of local author collections, their purpose and scope, their usefulness, policies of exclusion and inclusion, and cooperative collecting and maintenance schemes" (p. 339). Of particular note are the findings regarding the overall ambiguity of what actually constitutes a local author collection. Variations in collection policies regarding selection, inclusion, handling, and use make it difficult to determine how materials from local authors should be managed. As a result, England suggests that "the wide disparity of policies indicates that a more or less arbitrary decision must be reached upon the purpose of the collection, the use to be made of it, and the physical factors of housing and maintenance" (p. 342).

Given that many of the collections described in the study are seen as being one with local history collections, local author collections are often "regarded as archival in character and their use is much restricted" (p. 341). If this is still true today, this treatment would be particularly problematic for emerging self-published local authors looking to maintain authorial control while still having the flexibility to expose their work to larger audiences. Thus, the value of a local author collection can be considerably constrained as a result of misinterpreting its function as that of a local history collection. Ultimately, "[t]he distinction between regional historical material and local author collections should be clarified" in order to establish a clear division between preserving materials for the purpose of establishing a historical record and providing access to materials that represent and express the creative pursuits of local authors (p. 342).

In a much more current *Library Journal* "BackTalk" column, self-published author Susan Froetschel (2010) expresses the need for libraries to address the increased presence of local authors in their communities while working to develop a constructive means of providing appropriate and meaningful library services that will meet the unique needs of this growing subset of the service population. This includes being mindful of enacting restrictive selection policies that have the potential to "discourage debate" and instead making "decisions [about local author materials] on a case-by-by basis" (p. 40). Froetschel also suggests that libraries should recognize "local authors as a valuable promotional tool for programming and fundraising, inspiring local readers and writers, or creating new connections" (Froetschel, 2010, p. 40).

Froetschel is an author and not a librarian, and therefore is able to present a unique perspective on the relationship between local authors and libraries. While her interpretation of library policies may lack the necessary insight to understand the function of their implementation, it is valuable for librarians to understand how these policies are perceived by the individuals that are affected by them. In this case, Froetschel sees local author collection policies as establishing too many limitations such that local authors are inadvertently discouraged from participating in library activities. Though she acknowledges the influence of tight budgets on the library's ability to collect and process the abundance of local author materials that are being produced as a result of self-publishing, the author demonstrates the ease with which librarians can create a more inclusive environment "with some public space, initiative, and not much more publicity than a quick mention on a community web site" (Froetschel, 2010, p. 40).

The Kent District Library (KDL) in Kent County, Michigan, serves as a model of Froetschel's ideal. In an effort to support local authors, the library established the Local Indie collection. This collection includes local author titles that "are identified as local, which draws interest, and occupy prime real estate in the library on display shelves" that are positioned "near the entrance of two of [the library's] largest branches" (DeWild & Jarema, 2015, p. 23). In addition, staff members "post reviews of these items

on [the library's] blog in order to highlight them" (DeWild & Jarema, 2015, p. 23). Other related KDL initiatives that support local authors include a free Writers Conference, spotlights on social media and the library's newsletter, and a short story contest. KDL librarians describe their experience with establishing a local author collection in the following way:

In trying to be responsive to patrons and create a positive, supportive atmosphere for local authors, the Kent District Library has had to rethink policies, collections, and programs. Finding a way not just to accept local self-published authors but actually to welcome them, invite them into the library, and help them hone their craft and their marketing skills, has resulted in a beneficial experience for the library and our patrons (DeWild & Jarema, 2015, p. 26).

While individual libraries are beginning to recognize the benefits of developing inclusive policies that encourage local authors to become active members of the library community, other national library programs are seeking to more directly communicate the benefits of working with the local author community. *Library Journal*'s SELF-e program highlights six "strong benefits" of establishing connections between local authors, libraries, and readers (*Library Journal*, n.d.). These benefits include the stimulation of creativity, increased foot traffic to the library for non-traditional purposes, increased public investment and social capital, better social relation across diverse groups both inside and outside of the library, and the development of strong literary communities (*Library Journal*, 2017). Similar to the Kent District Library's observations, the SELF-e program asserts that "[d]iverse local author programs bring together many different community components and serve to vivify and become synonymous with local identity. Local author programs do not only benefit those involved, then, but positively impact an entire community" (*Library Journal*, 2017, p. 7).

As local author collections receive more attention and support from the library community, additional research will be needed in order to determine how local author collections are currently constructed. This includes first determining how a local author collection should be classified. The American Library Association's *Selection and Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries* describes special collections as containing "resources in a variety of formats that are distinctive and have intrinsic value to the institution," including "rare books, genealogy materials, archives, local history, theses, and books from local authors" (2018a, para. 1). As such, local author collections could be seen as special collections if the collection policies "include the scope and specific purpose of the collection" (ALA, 2018a, para. 1). If the purpose of a local author collection is to promote local authors and connect readers to their work, then provisions for access and circulation must be established. In this way, the classification of local author collections as special collections becomes problematic as "[s]pecial collections often have unique attributes that require libraries to limit access, control the physical environment, or deny circulation" (ALA, 2018a, para. 1). This study investigates the treatment of local author collections as special collections by examining submission guidelines as collection policies in order to determine how access to the works of local authors is established or restricted.

In addition, this study reviews the mission statements of local author collections. In a survey of public library mission statements, Barniskis (2016) reveals that mission statements "always act to define or display what the library intends to convey to its stakeholders" (p. 135). If this same perspective is applied when considering the purpose of a local author collection and a mission statement is developed to more clearly define its function as either an archival repository or a circulating collection, then more effective policies could be constructed around it. Thus, Barniskis' methodology and procedural approach to content analysis of mission statements serve as a model for this study. Similarly, Salisbury and Griffis (2014) analyzed the websites of 113 academic libraries in order to assess the availability and accessibility of each institution's

mission statement. The data collection procedures of Salisbury and Griffis inform the current study to determine whether or not library websites strategically provide a mission statement for local author collections.

Methodology

This study employs webometric and content analysis methods to analyze the mission statements and submission guidelines of a purposive sample of 19 local author collections from public libraries across 12 states (Appendix). Specifically, both a content analysis of the mission statements of local author collections and a webometric content survey of the submission guidelines were performed.

A content analysis of the mission statements of local author collections was conducted according to the methodology outlined by Krippendorff (2004). Semantical content analysis, or "procedures which classify signs according to their meaning," was used to count the number of times specific terms are used to emphasize the function of local author collections as a tool to diversify the library's collection and inspire public investment in the library (p. 45). Designations analysis, in particular, provided "the frequency with which certain objects (persons, things, groups, or concepts) are referred to" in order to establish a "subject-matter analysis" of available mission statements (p. 45).

In addition, a webometric survey determined in what form submission guidelines are presented, including either a webpage on the library's website or a Portable Document Format (PDF) that can be viewed and/or downloaded by users. The content of the submission guidelines was also assessed to determine what restrictions to access and inclusion may exist.

Data Collection and Analysis

Given that no directory of local author collection was located, a list of 75 local author collections was created in order to develop a purposive sample for this study. Of the 75 local author collections initially identified, 19 were selected "based on the size of

their municipalities" according to methodology established by Barniskis (2016). Library class size was also used to develop an equitable sample of libraries with comparable service areas. Library class is used by some states, including Michigan, to define a size criterion based on population served that determines a library's eligibility for state funding. This study favors Class 6 libraries or libraries that serve a population of 50,000 or more (Michigan Department of Education, Library of Michigan, 2011).

The data collected from the content analysis were stored in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. First, the number of mission statements from the sample was counted. Then, specific terms within the mission statements were counted, including "community," "support," and any other frequently used terms that emphasize community relationships or public access. All of the available mission statements were entered into TagCrowd, a word cloud generator, to identify any additional word frequencies.

The data collected from the webometric content survey were stored in an additional spreadsheet. The form of the submission guidelines was noted as either a webpage or PDF document. Initial categories of restrictions included library cardholder, age, format of submission, and genre of submission, but other categories were created as the result of emerging trends. The number of appearances of each restriction type was counted to determine the frequency with which libraries establish barriers to access to and inclusion in local author collections.

Limitations

Given the widespread presence of research and collection policy guidelines that are available for local history collections as compared to the lack of resources available specifically for local author collections, it is arguable that this study is only able to address a subset of the overall population of special collections that include materials from local authors. Because the history of each local collection was not taken into consideration, it is also important to note that an understanding of the impact that these types of collections have on their communities

may be lost without the appropriate historical context. In addition, this study is limited in its ability to discuss how local author collections are advertised and perceived by the individuals who use them. It also neglects the examination of smaller collections that have the potential to communicate important lessons on how local author collections can be developed with fewer resources.

Results
R1. How many local author collections include a mission or purpose statement?
Of the 19 local author collections surveyed, only two collections (12%) included an explicit mission or purpose statement. These statements were both identified using a section heading on the PDF document outlining the submission guidelines. The purpose statement was identified as "Purpose," whereas the mission statement was identified as "Mission Statement" (Table 1).

While the remaining 17 local author collections did not include explicitly identified mission or purpose statements in the submission guidelines, 14 of the 19 collections (74%) included an introduction to or overview of the collection that included language suggestive of a purpose or mission statement. These implicit mission or purpose statements use infinitives and present tense verbs to establish the function of the collection. These statements also help to convey each library's intention to create or maintain a local author collection.

Three of the 19 collections (16%) utilized the following statement in the submission guidelines (Table 2). One additional collection utilized a variation of the statement, omitting the direct object of the infinitive (Table 2). Accordingly, four of the 19 collections (21%) employed the exact same sentence in the submission guidelines of four respective local author collections. Only three collections (16%) did not include a mission statement or purpose statement.

Table 1. Explicit Mission or Purpose Statements

Purpose [Statement]	The library is an idea center that encourages creative expression. One way we achieve this objective is by supporting local authors and promoting their work on our Local Author Shelves (TPPL, 2018).
Mission Statement	The mission of the Local Author Collection is to connect the community that we serve with the works of local authors. We will: Provide free access to books by local authors Enrich the community with books written by local authors Promote individual achievement in authorship (MPL, n.d.)

Table 2. Repeated Implicit Mission or Purpose Statements

Three local author collections included this sentence	This collection is designed to give new and emerging writers, especially those whose books are not yet widely reviewed or stocked by libraries and bookstores, an opportunity to be read by their friends and neighbors (BSPPL, 2015; RRPL, n.d.; SBPL, n.d.).
One local author collection included this sentence	This collection is designed for new and emerging writers whose materials are not yet widely reviewed or stocked by libraries and bookstores (CMPL, 2015).

R2. How do these mission or purpose statements emphasize the relationship between the community and the collection itself?

Of the two explicit mission or purpose statements identified, both statements characterize the local author collection as a service created in support of local authors (Figure 1). The support of local authors is expressed in the promotion of the author's work by providing physical space for the author's work to be displayed and accessed by library patrons.

Only the explicit mission statement communicated a relationship between the community and the collection. This mission statement employed the term "community" twice, characterizing the local author collection as a venue through which local authors and community members can connect. This mission statement also demonstrates value of the local author collection to "[e]nrich the community with books written by local authors."

Similar to the explicit mission or purpose statements, the implicit mission or purpose statements focus on the local author collection as a service provided for local authors (Figure 2). The word "support" is used in five different implicit mission or purpose statements to indicate the library's intention "to support local authors," "to support local literary and creative efforts," or "[t]o support, encourage, and foster access to local talent."

The words "offers" and "opportunity" appear with almost as much frequency as the word "support," highlighting the relative emphasis on the responsibility of local authors to take advantage of a service as opposed to the library's role in providing a collection that serves both local authors and the community at the same time. In fact, there is very little emphasis on how the community will benefit from these collections, with only two uses of the word "community" present among all 14 implicit mission or purpose statements analyzed.

Figure 1. Explicit Mission or Purpose Statements Word Frequencies

Figure 2. Implicit Mission or Purpose Statement Word Frequencies

R3. How are submission guidelines presented on a library's website (i.e. as webpage or a PDF)?

Eight of the 19 collections (42%) included a downloadable PDF document that outlined the submission guidelines of a local author collection. In contrast, seven of the 19 collections (37%) presented the submission guidelines of a local author collection on a webpage. Four of the 19 collections (21%) did not include detailed submission guidelines (Figure 3). Instead, these collections include an inquiry form or contact information for a librarian and an estimation of when follow-up information should be expected (e.g., "within three business days" or "requests will be considered by collection selectors as time allows").

Fourteen of the 19 collections (74%) include a form that must be completed by the author seeking to submit works for inclusion in the local author collections. These forms request the author's name, contact information, the title and publication year of the book (or other applicable formats), a brief description of its contents, and links to any reviews it has received. In some cases, forms ask for an explanation regarding the author's connection to the library's service area or community.

Similar to the submission guidelines themselves, these corresponding submission forms are presented in varying formats (Figure 4). Eleven of the 19 collections (58%) provided a downloadable PDF document that must be printed and submitted via email, to a designated librarian or location within the library, or mailed to the library directly. Three of the 19 collections (16%) included a webpage form that could be completed on the website itself and submitted online. Five of the 19 collections (26%) did not provide a form and instead provided some alternative means of submission (e.g., submitting a copy of the item to the library directly or mailing a copy to a designated address).

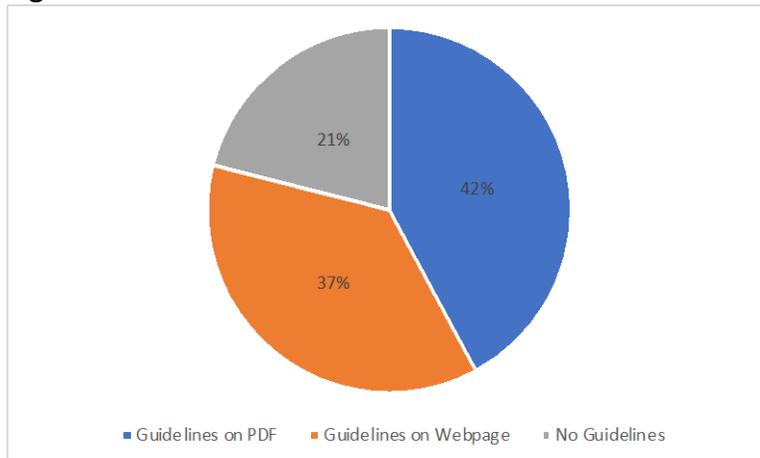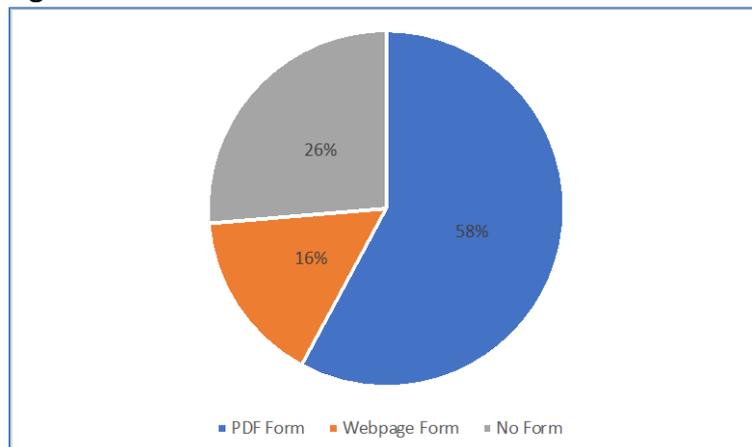**Figure 3. Presentation of Submission Guidelines**

- Guidelines on PDF
- Guidelines on Webpage
- No Guidelines

Figure 4. Form Included with Submission Guidelines

- PDF Form
- Webpage Form
- No Form

Six of the 19 collections (32%) presented submission guidelines that were either labeled as a library policy or listed among other library policies. In addition, 10 of the 19 collections (53%) directly refer to the library's collection development policy in the submission guidelines. This indicates that the individual interested in submitting to these collections must read and understand the submission guidelines for the local author collection itself as well as the library's collection development policy.

R4. What, if any, restrictions exist in the submission guidelines (e.g., library card holder, age, format of submission, genre of submission, etc.)?
Fourteen of the 19 collections (74%) require that the author submitting their work for inclusion currently reside in the library's service area. Five of the 19 collections (26%) include books that are "set locally" whereas two of the 19 collections (11%) were broader in their guidelines, stating that the author of the work should have a "clear connection" to the library's service area. Four of the 19 collections (21%) used the phrase "strong local interest" to indicate that submitted material should be relevant to the local community, though no formal definition of this phrase is provided (Figure 5).

One of the 19 collections (5%) required that the individual submitting work for inclusion be an active library card holder. This same collection also required that the submitting author be at least age 16 or older.

Only one other collection made reference to the submitting author's age, requiring that a parent or guardian sign the submission form for authors under 18 years old.

Sixteen of the 19 collections (84%) were donation-based collections. Eleven of the 19 collections (58%) included statements in the submission guidelines indicating that submitted books would not be returned to the author, even if the item was not selected for inclusion in the collection. Five of these 11 collections (45%) stated that books not selected for inclusion would be donated to the Friends of the Library. Only two of 19 collections (11%) made submitted books available for pickup by the author if the item was not selected for inclusion in the collection.

Other restrictions that were identified in the submission guidelines include professional reviews, physical format and binding, style and conventions (Figure 6). Eleven of the 19 collections (58%) requested links to or citations of professional reviews of submitted books or materials. Seven of the 19 collections (37%) required that the submitted book must be durable and professionally printed with a binding consistent with hardcover or trade paperback formats. Five of the 19 collections (26%) required that the submitted book adhere to standard writing conventions and style, including proper grammar and punctuation.

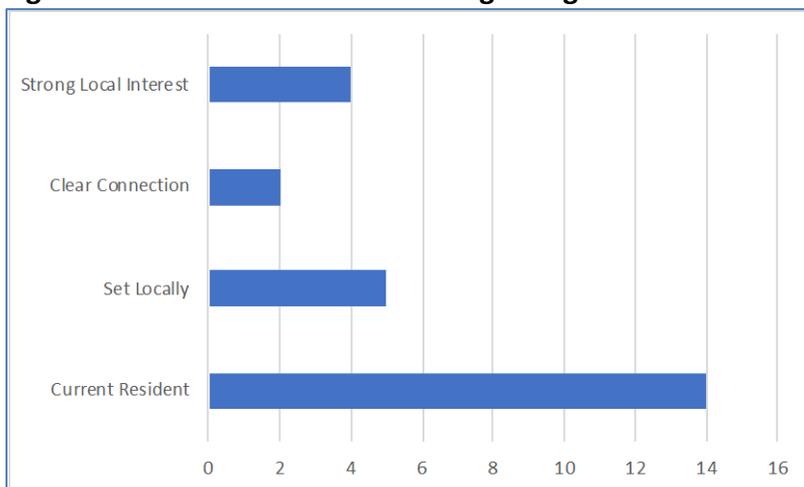**Figure 5. Submission Restrictions Regarding Status as Local Author**
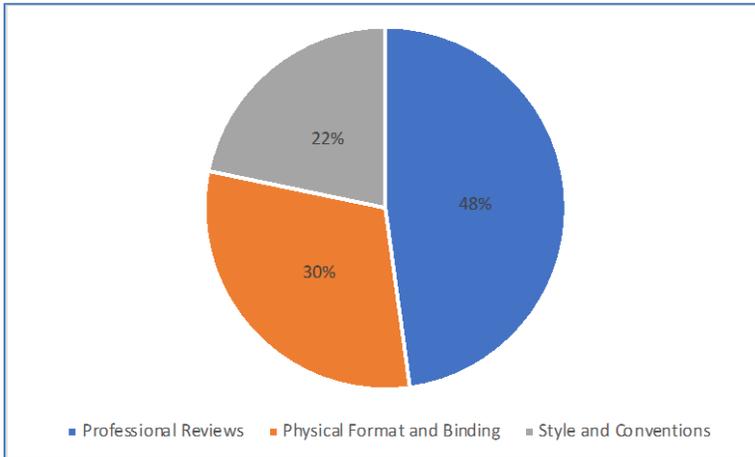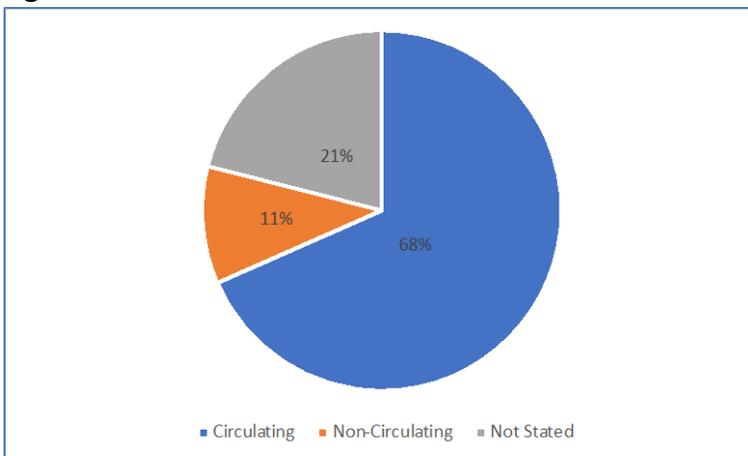
Figure 6. Other Submission Restrictions

Professional Reviews ■ Physical Format and Binding ■ Style and Conventions

48%
30%
22%

Figure 7. Statement of Access

■ Circulating ■ Non-Circulating ■ Not Stated

68%
11%
21%

Four of the 19 collections (21%) required that books be submitted in a physical format. Three of the 19 collections (16%) allowed for the submission of books in electronic format, whereas one collection specifically stated that no self-published eBooks would be accepted for inclusion in the collection. Three of the 19 collections (16%) allowed for the submission of music to the collection.

Only six of the 19 collections (32%) provided information in the submission guidelines regarding what types of genres were acceptable for inclusion in the collection. Of these six collections, two collections do not accept children's books while the other four collections accept fiction and nonfiction materials appropriate for adults, young adults, and children.

R5. How do libraries provide access to local author collections?
Thirteen of the 19 collections (68%) are circulating local author collections (Figure 7). This implies that these items are added to the library's catalog and easily accessible to all library patrons. Two of the 19 collections (11%) are non-circulating collections but can be accessed by special request. Four of the 19 collections (21%) do not provide information about how the collection will be accessed by other library patrons.

Five of the 19 collections (26%) were referred to in the submission guidelines as special collections. In some cases, this status directly influenced access to collection, with both non-circulating local author collections being identified as special collections.

Four of the 19 collections (21%) stated deselection targets based on limited circulation rates. Two of these four collections would withdraw non-circulating items after one year while one collection would withdraw non-circulating items after two years.

Five of the 19 collections (26%) highlighted the potential of selected materials to be added to general collection if certain criteria were met. For example, if circulation rates of item were high over a designated period of time or if the item satisfied the general requirements of the library's collection development or material selection policies, the possibility of inclusion in the general collection would be considered.

Discussion and Conclusion

More than 70 years later, many of the initial observations England (1948) discussed regarding the composition, management, and use of local author collections remain the same. The extreme variations in the submission guidelines of the 19 collections surveyed in this study establish the need to clearly communicate why these collections exist and how they can be most effectively used. It is reasonable to assume that the creation and development of national guidelines similar to those of local history collections could help clarify the purpose and value of local author collections. Given that only two collections in this study presented explicitly stated mission statements, it is also important to focus on the development of a mission statement that captures the function of a local author collection as a tool to unite local authors with local readers or as a special collection that preserves local identity through the creations of its residents.

One notable observation that should be taken from this study is that the language used to establish submission guidelines for a local author collection has the ability to communicate the purpose of the collection, especially when there is no mission statement to properly justify its existence. The submission guidelines analyzed in this study focused on the creation and management of a local author collection as a service provided for local authors as opposed to a collection created for the benefit of the community as a whole. Only one of the collections analyzed in this study addressed the local author collection's ability to "enrich the community with books written by local authors," asserting its value to local authors and community members alike.

Though the local author collection is often framed as a service provided for the benefit of local authors, authors who want to see their books in library collections must have some knowledge of library material selection and collection development policies. This has the potential to place the burden of inclusion on the authors themselves who, if they are self-published or published under a small press, will experience other barriers throughout the submission process. Consider the fact that the majority of the collections surveyed in this study require that an author donate a copy of his or her book. A donation-based collection depends on the author's ability to provide a free copy of their work, and if they are working independently or with limited resources, this requirement has the potential to prohibit submission to the collection. More than half of the collections in this study did not return donated books, even if the book was not selected for inclusion in the collection, further burdening an author who may only have access to a precious few professionally printed copies of their own work.

Many of the collections in this study did indicate in the submission guidelines how local author materials would be accessed by the community. Providing shelf space and the opportunity for circulation were presented as benefits of inclusion in a local author collection, though it is unclear how these items would be promoted to the public. Given that a number of the collections in this study establish circulation requirements as a factor contributing to deselection after a designated time period, promotion should be an integral part of the management of a local author collection. An effective marketing strategy has the ability to communicate value to the community, thus inspiring increased

usage of and investment in the local author collection while supporting and encouraging local talent.

As local authors continue to become empowered by technology and shifts in public perception regarding the legitimacy of the self-publishing industry, libraries must adapt to the changing needs of their communities. While local author collections are an amazing service for local authors, they also have the potential to investigate and challenge the tenets of the traditional publishing industry and encourage community interconnectedness. Additional research regarding the best practices and applications of local author collections is still needed, but the development of clear, concise, and useful mission statements and submission guidelines has the immediate effect of establishing a common purpose that the entire library community can aspire toward. Thus, the value of a local author collection is predicated on the development and presentation of effective strategic planning and compelling community engagement.

References

American Library Association (ALA). (2018a). Basic components of a selection policy: Special collections. In *Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries*. Retrieved from http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/special

American Library Association (ALA). (2018b). Why do I need a policy? In *Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries*. Retrieved from http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/why

Barbara S. Ponce Public Library (BSPPL). (2015). Submission form for local authors. Retrieved from https://www.pinellaspark.com/DocumentCenter/View/1133/BSPPL-Local-Author-Submission-Form-PDF?bidId=

Barniskis, S. C. (2016). Deconstructing the mission: A critical content analysis of public library mission statements. *Library Quarterly*, *86*(2), 135-152.

Bowker. (2018). *Self-publishing in the United States, 2012-2017*. Retrieved from http://media.bowker.com/documents/bowker-selfpublishing-report2017.pdf

Clinton-Macomb Public Library. (2015). Local author collection submission form. Retrieved from https://cmpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Local-Author-Collection-Submission-Form.pdf

DeWild, M., & Jarema, M. (2015). Supporting self-publishing and local authors: From challenge to opportunity. In R. P. Holley (Ed.), *Self-publishing and collection development: Opportunities and challenges for libraries* (pp. 21-26). West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press.

England, G. A. (1948). Local author collections in libraries. *College and Research Libraries*, *9*(4), 339-342.

Froetschel, S. (2010). Local authors can be friends. *Library Journal, 135*(3), 40.

Krippendorff, K. (2004). *Content Analysis: An introduction to its methodology* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

Library Journal. (2017). Six strong benefits of supporting your local author community in your library: A SELF-e white paper. Retrieved from https://biblioboard.com/lp-elfewhitepaper/6benefits/?utm_source=selfeWebsite&utm_medium=button&utm_campaign=SELFeWhitePaper-6benefits

McAllen Public Library (MPL). (n.d.). Local author collection submission form. Retrieved from http://www.mcallenlibrary.net/docs/Local%20Author%20Collection%20Submission%20Form.pdf

Michigan Department of Education, Library of Michigan. (2011). State aid to public libraries application process. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/libraryofmichigan/State_Aid_to_Public_Libraries_Application_Process_544008_7.pdf

Reitz, J. (2014). *Online dictionary for library and information science* (ODLIS). Retrieved from https://www.abc-clio.com/ODLIS/odlis_about.aspx

Round Rock Public Library (RRPL). (n.d.). Local author collection. Retrieved from https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Local-Author-Form.pdf

Salisbury, P. & Griffis, M. R. (2014). Academic library mission statements, web sites, and communicating purpose. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship, 40*(6), 592-596.

Santa Barbara Public Library (SBPL). (n.d.). Submitting your book to Santa Barbara Public Library's local authors' collection. Retrieved from https://civicaweb.santabarbaraca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=185850

Tinley Park Public Library (TPPL). (2018). Local author collection: Submission form. Retrieved from https://www.tplibrary.org/borrow/special-collections

Wilcox, R. (1924). Art reference round table: The library's responsibility in collecting source material concerning local art and artists. *Bulletin of the American Library Association, 18*, 296-298. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/25686308

Appendix

The 19 public libraries surveyed in this study are as follows:

Library	Location	Population of Service Area
Berwyn Public Library	Berwyn, IL	55,550
Clinton-Macomb Public Library	Clinton Township, MI	185,000
Cook Memorial Public Library District	Libertyville, IL	60,000
Dearborn Public Library	Dearborn, MI	94,491
Fountaindale Public Library District	Bolingbrook, IL	75,201
Kenton County Public Library	Covington, KY	165,399
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library	Eau Claire, WI	68,587
Lawrence Public Library	Lawrence, KS	96,892
Lorain Public Library	Lorain, OH	63,841
McAllen Public Library	McAllen, TX	142,696
Milfrod Public Library	Milford, CT	54,508
Monroe County Public Library	Bloomington, IN	146,986
Novi Public Library	Novi, MI	59,715
Pinellas Park Public Library	Pinellas Park, FL	52,854
Round Rock Public Library	Round Rock, TX	123,678
Santa Barbara Library	Santa Barbara, CA	92,101
Southfield Public Library	Southfield, MI	73,208
Tinley Park Public Library	Tinley Park, IL	56,668
Western Sullivan Public Library	Jeffersonville, NY	75,485