General

How can I use Prospector for collection development?

There are several ways to use Prospector when doing collection development:

- Look at the Requested and Returned too long lists to see what patrons are requesting. Those items should be in your collection.
- Print out reports of what your patrons are getting on Prospector every month. Circulate the reports to all the librarians who do collection development.
- When looking at reports, looks for patterns – are you seeing quite a few requests on a particular subject or in a particular genre? Libraries have changed their collection development polices after reviewing what their patrons borrow through Prospector. One library started to purchase DVD television series sets.
- When making decisions about purchases and gifts, look at Prospector to see how many copies are out there. Some libraries, with gifts in particular, will sometimes add them to their collection if it fills a need within Prospector when there are very few copies.
- You can search particular subject areas in Prospector to see what your library may be missing.