Being Lean But Not Mean: Weeding Print Collections to Improve Services

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Objectives:

• Background – Impetus for weeding
• Data for decision-making
• Strategies for withdrawing print
• Lessons learned
Impetus for weeding the print collection

• Overflowing shelves
• Slowing traffic
• Electronic resources
• Changing concept of Library as a space
Ask the users what they want...

- Ethnographic research design study—
  - Interviews
  - Drawing sessions
  - Observing users inside the library
Users needs/wants

- Quiet reading areas
- Areas for collaboration (Noisy areas)
- Flexible areas
- Technology rich areas
- Consultation areas
- Keep the books
Data – used for a graduate architectural design class project.

Consult with architect to assess current spaces.
Analyzing the collection—“big picture”

- OCLC WorldShare Management Services’ Analytics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison Name</th>
<th>Comparison Types</th>
<th>Export</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UMD vs CIC</td>
<td>Benchmark, Unique Shared Titles</td>
<td>Comparison Title List</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMC_WorldCat_comparison</td>
<td>WorldCat Unique Shared Comparison</td>
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</table>
Uniqueness of collection
Distribution by publication date
Material format

86.1%
Conspectus

- Government Documents
- Language, Linguistics & Literature
- Unknown Classification
- History & Auxiliary Sciences
- Library Science, Generalities & Reference
- Business & Economics
- Music
- Engineering & Technology
- Art & Architecture
- Philosophy & Religion

Number of Publications
Comparison with alliances: Unique & overlaps in collections

- Agriculture
- Anthropology
- Art & Architecture
- Biological Sciences
- Business & Economics
- Chemistry
- Communicable Diseases & Miscellaneous
- Computer Science
- Education
- Engineering & Technology
- Geography & Earth Sciences
- Government Documents
- Health Facilities, Nursing & History
- Health Professions & Public Health
- History & Auxiliary Sciences
- Language, Linguistics & Literature
- Law
ALEPH Reports – Loans Counts by Call Number

CP: Active Loans by Call Number

Template: Criteria for requesting shelflist reports

• Sublibrary code
• Collection code
• Call number range
• Publication year range

• With or without loans
• With or without copies anywhere
• Single or multi-volume
• IPS exclusion
Information to include in shelflist reports

- Sublibrary code
- Collection code
- Docnum
- Title
- Author

- Pubyear
- Call number
- Item barcode
- Description
- Number of loans
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<tr>
<th>bib</th>
<th>author</th>
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Strategies:

• Find items with duplicate copies

• Withdraw duplicate copies

• Withdraw items based on pubyear

• Target collections in selected spaces
  • Identified for new services
  • Problem areas
Opportunities to further reduce footprint:

• Off-site storage

• Shared collection resource

• Ongoing analysis:
  • Compare print serials collections with e-serials purchased and have perpetual access
  • Print monographic titles with e-copy
Results:

- About half a million volumes removed from the main library and branches
  - Off-site storage
  - Shared repositories
  - Recycled
- Spaces for new services
Lessons learned:

• Leadership and coordination is key to a smooth implementation of a major project
• Involve major stakeholders early on in the project
• Important to ask the experts
• Weeding is an ongoing process – analyzing the print vs the e-collections
• Data to guide decisions
• Fear not, the world is your library!
“Next to emptying the outdoor bookdrop on cold and snowy days, weeding is the most undesirable job in the library. It is also one of the most important. Collections that go unweeded tend to be cluttered, unattractive, and unreliable informational resources.”

Thank you!

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