"Would You Move, Please?"
Weeding Science Reference Collection

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XXII Annual Charleston Conference, Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition
November 7-10, 2007
Objectives

• The Library
• Problem and Solutions
• The Weeding Process
• A Look Around Us And Future Trends
• Questions/ Answers
Overview of EPSL

- History
  - http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/history.html

- EPSL staff
  - Reference
  - Circulation
  - Students

- Pictures
  - http://www.flickr.com/photos/7976207@N03/sets/72157602529974246/show/

- Collection size
  - 314,666 items

- Pie chart showing:
  - Periodicals: 89,044
  - Stacks: 160,257
  - Others: 49,038
  - Reference: 16,327

The Problem

• Crowded print reference collection

“Poorly weeded collections are not the sign of poor budgets but of poor librarianship.” (Johnson, 2003).

• Low use

• Lots of indexes and abstracts
Our Goal

Remove the clutter from our reference collection....

…space, please!
Our Solution

• Most of the indexes/abstracts are online. See: Print/electronic equivalent table
  http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/Kworking/printequivalent.html

• Move print holdings of indexes and abstracts, patent & trademark publications, etc. outside the reference area

• Reference area is in prime location
  Re-purpose the space.
"BEFORE" statistics

- **16,327** items according to the Ad Hoc Monthly Statistics Reports
- **17,707** items counted manually
- **333** boxes of ANSI Standards

Provided by the USMAI Consortium of Libraries


~ **1,380** items difference between manual and the report count
The Weeding Process

Step 1: Shelf-read and clean up

– Removed items in poor condition
– Removed 2nd copies
– Removed earlier editions or superseded items
– Removed items with no barcodes
The Weeding Process

Step 2: Serials Publications

– Created spreadsheet with multivolume sets
– Regular meetings with librarians
– Final decisions taken

It's your turn Mr. Index and Ms. Abstract!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Librarian</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Print</th>
<th>Total Print volumes</th>
<th>Total Shelves</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Subject Specialist final decision</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>GF1.E555</td>
<td>The environment index</td>
<td>1972-1987</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd floor</td>
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<tr>
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<td>QE185.5.W95</td>
<td>World transindex</td>
<td>1977-1986</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>HBK</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Bob</td>
<td>Q175.I61</td>
<td>International abstracts in operations research</td>
<td>1962-2006</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>Mathematical reviews</td>
<td>1940-present</td>
<td>414</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<td>HBK</td>
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<td>Computer Literature Index Annual Cumulation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1900-1968</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1899-1968</td>
<td>Ask Amanda but see notes and attached papers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nedelina</td>
<td>QC1.P88</td>
<td>Physikalische Berichte</td>
<td>1930-1978</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>HBK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notes: TRIS = Theoretical Research Information Services, INSPEC = Institution of Electrical Engineers Proceedings.*
The Weeding Process

Step 3: The move

- In house
- Storage

"A necessary evil for which there are no obvious alternatives" (Hazen, 2000)

Cons
- Inconvenience for users
- Splits collections
- Limits browsability

Pros
- Alternative to withdrawal
- Online access
"AFTER" statistics

BEFORE  March 2007
• 17,707 items counted manually
• 333 boxes of ANSI Standards

AFTER  October 2007
• 14,330 items counted manually
• 307 boxes of ANSI Standards

We removed 3,377 items + 26 boxes from the reference area within 7 months.
Recent News

- District of Columbia Public Library withdrawal of books
- Sandia Labs Library closing
  http://ala.org/ala/editions2/guidetoreference.htm
- University of California Merced Library
  http://ucmercedlibrary.info/
  – Not what research libraries are, but what they will be
The Digital Era

• Higher Education
  – The students, faculty and … librarians
  – Information literacy
  – New Scholarship

• Emerging Technologies in next 5 years
  – User-Created Content and Social Networking
  – Mobile Phones and Virtual Worlds
  – New Scholarship
  – Massively Multiplayer Educational Gaming

http://www.nmc.org/horizon
Major Initiatives

• Portico  [www.portico.org/](http://www.portico.org/)  
  Permanent archive of electronic journals

• North American Storage Trust  
  [www.oclc.org/programs/ourwork/collectivecoll/sharedprint/nast.htm](http://www.oclc.org/programs/ourwork/collectivecoll/sharedprint/nast.htm)  
  Low-use collections in shared physical space
Today’s Players

- Publishers’ sites as search engines
- Google – Scholar, Patent Search, Book Search
- Government databases – Medline, Agricola
- Academic Live Search (Microsoft)
We Talked, You Listened!

Now let's try the other way around!


Thank you for listening!

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