



# "Would You Move, Please?"

Weeding Science Reference Collection

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# Objectives

- The Library
- Problem and Solutions
- The Weeding Process
- A Look Around Us And Future Trends
- Questions/ Answers



# Overview of EPSSL

- History

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/history.html>

- EPSSL staff

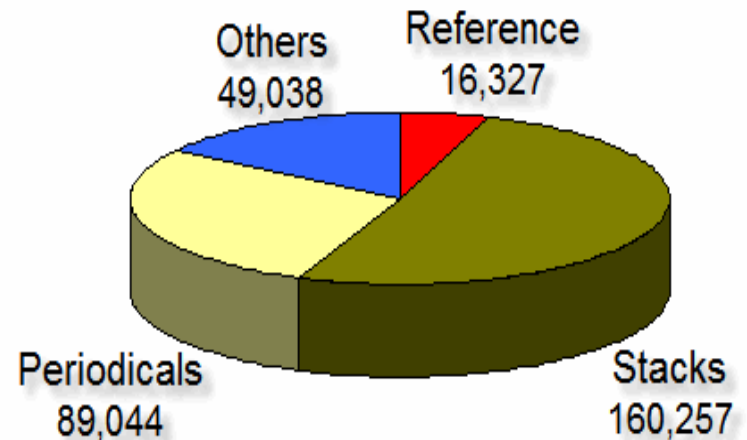
- Reference
- Circulation
- Students

- Pictures

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7976207@N03/sets/72157602529974246/show/>

- Collection size

314,666 items



<http://www.itd.umd.edu/LIMS3/REPORTS/index.html>



# 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

<http://www.itd.umd.edu/LIMS3/REPORTS/index.html>

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



# The Weeding Process

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## 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- Removed earlier editions or superseded items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!



# EPSL Engineering and Physical Sciences Library

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Librarian	Call Number	Title	Print	Total Print volumes	Total Shelves	Online	Subject Specialist final decision	Notes
2		AS36 .R284	Selected Rand Abstracts	1980-1991	6	1	1998-present	3rd floor	E-Journal
3	Bob	G575 .P61 - G575	Polar and glaciological abstracts	1974-2003	17	1		3rd floor	
4	Bob	GC1 .U334 - GC1	Underwater information bulletin	1971-1983	9	1	1995-present	3rd floor	E-Journal
5	Bob	GF1 .E555	The environment index	1972-1987	16	2		3rd floor	
6		HA1 .I56	Statistical theory and method abstracts	1959-2001	56	5		HBK	
7	Bob	HE1.C7	Current literature in traffic and transportation	1968-2002	18	1	TRIS: 1960-present	3rd floor	TRIS? INSPEC?
8	Bob	HE2704.F4	Railroad research bulletin	1974-1981	9	1	TRIS: 1960-present	3rd floor	TRIS? INSPEC?
9	Bob	HE5614.2 .H5 - H	Highway safety literature	1977-1985	12	1	TRIS: 1960-present	3rd floor	TRIS? INSPEC?
10		Q158.5 .W95	World transindex	1977-1986	54	3		HBK	
11		Q175 .I51	International abstracts in operations research	1962-2006	46	3		3rd floor	Latest 2 years in REF
12	Nevenka	QA1 .A517	American mathematical society abstracts	1980-present	37	2		3rd floor	Latest 2 years in REF
13	Nevenka	QA1 .M76	Mathematical reviews	1940-present	414	31	1864-present	3rd floor	Mathscinet
14	Nevenka	QA1 .Z384	Zentralblatt fur mathematik und ihre grenzgebi	1931-1995	129	12	1868-present	3rd floor	<a href="http://www.emis.de/">http://www.emis.de/</a>
15	Nevenka	QA76 .C5854	Computing reviews (ACM)	1960-present	73	3		HBK	Latest 2 years in REF
16	Nevenka	QA76.Q31	Computer Literature Index Annual Cumulation	1980-2002	25	2		HBK	
17	Nevenka	QA276.A1C87	Current Index to Statistics	1975-1999	25	2	1975-present	HBK	<a href="http://www.statindex.org/">http://www.statindex.org/</a>
18	Nevenka	QA901..J87	Journal of fluid mechanics	1956-2004			1956-present	Off-site	Archives purchased, E-journals
19	Bob	QB1 .A797	Astronomischer Jahresbericht	1900-1968	56	3	1899-1968	Ask Amanda but see notes and attached papers	not listed through Research Port, <a href="http://www.ari.uni-heidelberg.de/publikation/en/ajb/">http://www.ari.uni-heidelberg.de/publikation/en/ajb/</a> Available for free. NEED to be listed in Research Port
20	Bob	QB1 .A798	Astronomy and astrophysics abstracts	1969-2000	91	7	1969-2000	Same as above	<a href="http://www.ari.uni-heidelberg.de/publikation/en/aaa/">http://www.ari.uni-heidelberg.de/publikation/en/aaa/</a>
21	Nedelina	QC1.C87	Current physics index	1975-2003	48	3	Coverage varies: 1893-present	HBK	SCITATION/SPIN
22	Nedelina	QC1.P68	Physikalische Berichte	1970-1978	66	14		HBK	

# 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**
- **Guide to Reference**  
12<sup>th</sup> Edition Online (2008), no print  
<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

"The Horizon Report", 2007 Edition  
<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**
- **SciTopia** – [www.Scitopia.org](http://www.Scitopia.org)
- **Gallica** – [www.gallica.fr](http://www.gallica.fr)
- **Google** – Scholar, Patent Search, Book Search
- **Government databases** – Medline, Agricola
- **Academic Live Search** (Microsoft)





Springer

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industrial arts index

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Industrial Arts Index By H.W. Wilson Company

Page 1

Digitized by Google

### Industrial Arts Index

A Cumulative Index to Engineering and Trade

January, 1918—December, 1919

Abbey  
Spanish abbey. G. G. King. II Am Inst Arch  
J 7:229-465 S '19

Absorptio  
Extrac  
aly

Health Topics  
Start here with 740 topics on  
and wellness

Drugs & Supplements  
About your prescription  
medicines, herbs and  
nutrition

Medical Dictionary  
Includes picture  
spellings

News  
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MedlinePlus  
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Featured Site

New on MedlinePlus: images of skin  
VisualDxHealth. Check out an exam  
Pictures on the melanoma page.

# We Talked, You Listened!



Now let's try the other way around!



# Selected Readings

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**Thank you for  
listening!**



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