"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 EPSL

- **History**
  - [http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/history.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/ENGIN/history.html)

- **EPSL staff**
  - Reference
  - Circulation
  - Students

- **Pictures**
  - [http://www.flickr.com/photos/7976207@N03/sets/72157602529974246/show/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/7976207@N03/sets/72157602529974246/show/)

- **Collection size**
  - 314,666 items

  ![Pie chart showing collection distribution](http://www.itd.umd.edu/LIMS3/REPORTS/index.html)

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

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[UMD Logo]
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– Removed earlier editions or superseded items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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<td>GC1 U334 - GC1</td>
<td>Underwater information bulletin</td>
<td>1971-1983</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1995-present</td>
<td>3rd floor</td>
<td>E-Journal</td>
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<td>The environment index</td>
<td>1972-1987</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>3rd floor</td>
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<td>Current literature in traffic and transportation</td>
<td>1968-2002</td>
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<td>TRIS:1960-present</td>
<td>TRIS? INSPEC?</td>
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<td>World transindex</td>
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<td>1962-2006</td>
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<td>American mathematical society abstracts</td>
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<td>HBK</td>
<td>Latest 2 years in REF</td>
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<td>QA76 .Q31</td>
<td>Computer literature index Annual Cumulation</td>
<td>1960-2002</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>HBK</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Q81.A797</td>
<td>Astronomischer Jahresbericht</td>
<td>1900-1968</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1893-1968</td>
<td>Ask Amanda about notes and attached papers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Weeding Process

Step 3: The move

- In house
- Storage

Cons
- Inconvenience for users
- Splits collections
- Limits browsability

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

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**
  12th Edition Online (2008), no print
  [http://ala.org/ala/editions2/guidetoreference.htm](http://ala.org/ala/editions2/guidetoreference.htm)

• **University of California Merced Library**
  [http://ucmercedlibrary.info/](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!
Selected Readings


Thank you for listening!

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