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Let's Talk About Collections and Space

ALCTS Collection Evaluation & Assessment Interest Group

ALA Midwinter 2018

Rebecca Ciota, Discovery & Integrated Systems Librarian

R. Cecilia Knight, Acquisitions & Discovery Librarian

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Background

- Burling Library built in 1959, expanded in 1982-1983
- By 2016, the Grinnell College Libraries were in sore need of more teaching space and decided to make a second classroom.
- This required the removal of **924** shelves, the weeding of **26,083** volumes, and the shifting of over **300,000** volumes.

Mcmullin, Roger W. 1982. "Burling ExteriorMarch 1982". Grinnell College. hdl: http://hdl.handle.net/11084/5570.

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Move over collections, we need a classroom!

- This required the removal of **924** shelves, the weeding of **26,083** volumes, and the shifting of over **300,000** volumes.
- We targeted our music monographs and scores, government documents, art history monographs, and serials for shifting and withdrawing.

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Methodology for withdrawal: Monographs

- Considerations
  - Short timeline
  - Need to consult with faculty before removing content
  - Scores were shelved in a way that made them difficult to access
- Central Iowa Cooperative Collections Initiative (CICCI)
  - Had identified 40,000 items that could be withdrawn from the collection
  - Decided that it would be better to identify materials in bigger clumps rather than finding individual items and so did not withdraw but instead transferred to storage.

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Photo of cramped aisle on 2nd floor.

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Methodology for withdrawal: Serials

- JSTOR titles
- Other fully available electronic content
- Content that was acquired during the project
- Random volumes
- Gifts unrelated to curriculum

- Challenges
  - The uneven cataloging of the older materials
  - Bulk of the work fell to the humanities and social studies specialists when they were in high demand for teaching
  - Created downstream work for serials cataloging

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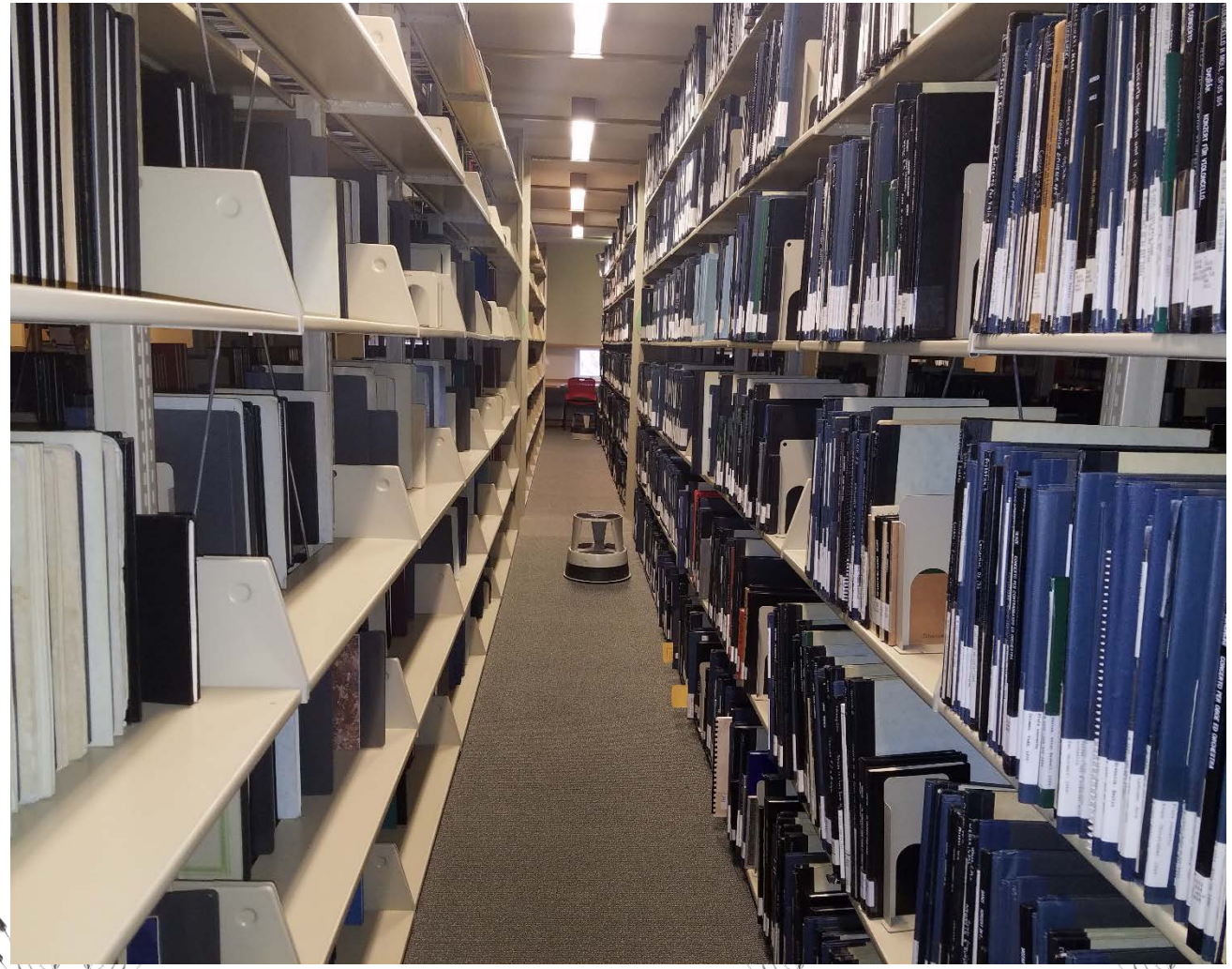
Photo of empty shelves facing scores



Methodology for withdrawal: Government Documents

- Purchased electronically:
  - Hearings
  - FBIS
  - JPRS

- Challenges
  - Physical Collection mostly un-cataloged
  - Bulk of the work fell to a few people
  - Recycling program was difficult to coordinate with campus services
  - Waiting period for withdrawal of Government Documents slowed and complicated the process.

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Government Documents

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Challenges and Unexpected Bumps

- Challenges
  - Short timeline
  - Funding for only one wall
- Unexpected Bumps
  - Change in scope late in project, left with an awkward row of shelves
  - Materials not withdrawn but moved to remote storage for political reasons

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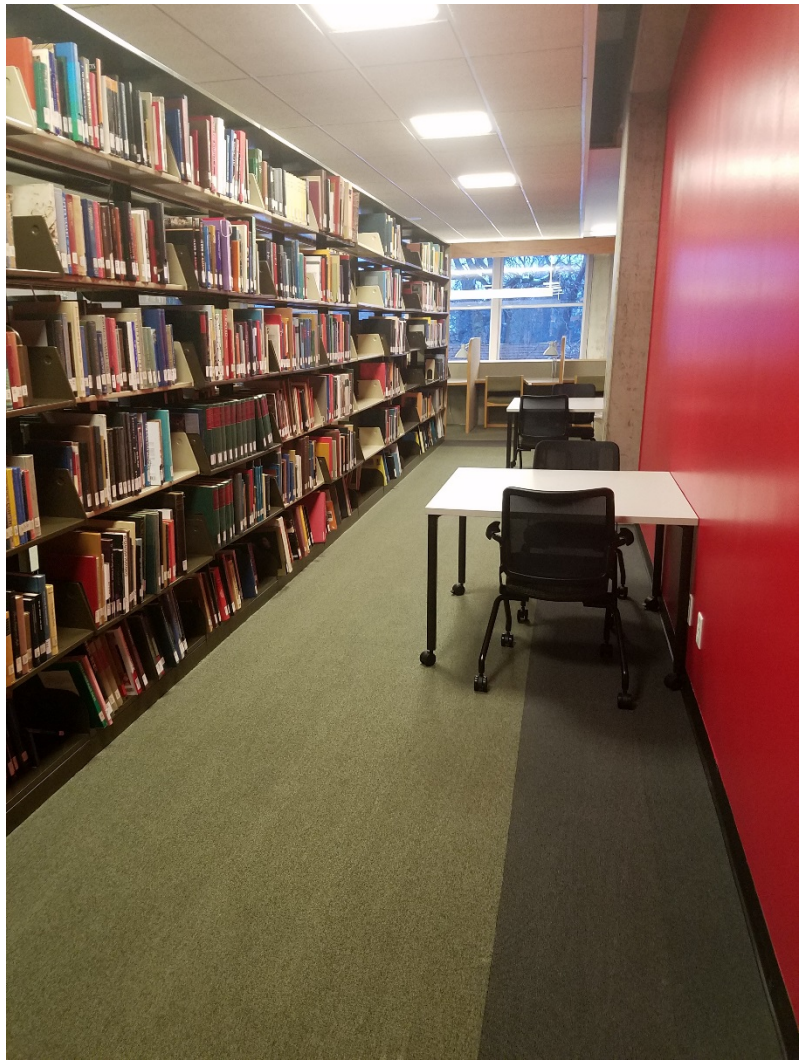
The Result: New Study Spaces



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The Result: A New Classroom Space

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Thank you.

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ciotareb@Grinnell.edu

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knight@Grinnell.edu