Let’s Talk About Collections and Space

ALCTS Collection Evaluation & Assessment Interest Group
ALA Midwinter 2018

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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.

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.
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  • Had identified 40,000 items that could be withdrawn from the collection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.
Photo of cramped aisle on 2nd floor.
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
Photo of empty shelves facing scores
Methodology for withdrawal: Government Documents

- Purchased electronically:
  - Hearings
  - FBIS
  - JPRS

- Challenges
  - Physical Collection mostly uncataloged
  - 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.
Government Documents
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  • Materials not withdrawn but moved to remote storage for political reasons
The Result: New Study Spaces
The Result: A New Classroom Space
Thank you.

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