

# Rules-Based Collections Reduction: Honouring Collections While Inspiring Innovation

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# Outline

- Context
- Collections reduction process
- Results
- Lessons learned

# University of Calgary Health Sciences Library

- Located at the Foothills Medical Centre
- Branch of the University Library
- Hub of the Health Information Network

# University of Calgary Libraries & Cultural Resources

- Brings together the University Library, Archives & Special Collections, The Nickle Arts Museum, and the U of C Press
- The Health Sciences Library is a branch of the University Library
- New High Density Library (Spring 2010)
- New Taylor Family Digital Library (December 2010)

# Strategic Directions

- Collections focus is now on digital resources
- Provide physical & virtual environments to facilitate learning & to support social interactions
- Relocate print materials from prime library space to offsite locations

# Strategic Opportunity

- Undergraduate Medical Education required to increase intake by 30 students
- Give up 25% of library space, reduce print library collection by 50%, gain expanded computer classroom, public access computers; flexible, up-to-date electronic and network connectivity; single service desk; centralized staff office

# The Disapproval Plan: Rules-Based Weeding & Storage Decisions<sup>1</sup>

- Elements of plan
  - A defined “universe” of books
  - Selection metadata
  - Library profile
  - Application of rules

1. Title shamelessly stolen from an article by Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer in *Against the grain*. 20(6). Dec 2008-Jan 2009. 76-8.

# The Process

- Developed parameters for what was to be weeded
- Identified candidates through collections usage reports generated from ILS
- Choices:
  - Withdraw
  - Move to remote storage
  - Retain

# Parameters

- Duplicate monographs with fewer than 10 circulations in last 5 years: discard all except best copy
- Monographs purchased before 2000 not circulated in last 5 years: storage
- All serials with full-text available in secure archives: off-site storage
- Smaller collections redefined & weeded

# The Numbers

The main collection was reduced by almost 45%

	Monographs	Serials	Totals
Before	279	442	721
After	159	250	409
Removed	120	192	312

# of bays

# Lessons Learned

- Not an intellectual exercise
- With more time, would have analyzed collections by subject
- Checked for duplications against main library holdings
- Would have withdrawn more ruthlessly

“less room for collections,  
more for people”



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Questions? Comments?