The Weeding Planner ... from page 34

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project was managed by multiple members of the library staff, including the heads of Facilities, Collection Development, Collection Management, and Research and Instruction Services (RIS). Librarians cleared the equivalent of 5,000 shelves of materials, equaling approximately 2.76 miles of cleared shelving space. The areas weeded included Library of Congress call number ranges H through PN, with the exception of the M-Music and Books on Music range. Two of those ranges, N — Fine Arts and P — Language and Literature, covered subject areas whose publishing conventions favor print, making the weeding of items from these areas more of a challenge than economics (HB-HC) or finance (HG), where large serials runs duplicated in electronic resources were withdrawn to clear large swathes of shelf space. A contracted moving team shifted the remaining items around the building as shelves were emptied.

In addition to clearing space for the MATH Lab move, the Education Resources room was slated for conversion to a graduate student study and work space. Materials in the room included Louisiana state-approved textbooks for elementary and high schools, monographs on pedagogy and theory, a collection of board games and easy reader books, and collections of award winners. A large collection of historical young people’s books was also housed in this room. The Education subject specialist librarian was tasked with weeding the Education Resources collections in addition to weeding the L call number range areas on the third floor.

It would be safe to assume that LSU Libraries had its collective hands full of weeding projects, but another had been in progress for a year before the Education Resources and Math Lab projects were introduced: weeding the reference collection located on the first floor and then transferring the retained items to the stacks. The reference collection had been weeded in part to accommodate the CAS Tutorial Center expansion. During 2015, plans were projected for increasing student study and work space in the area occupied by the reference stacks. The print reference collection had seen such little use that most items on the reference stacks. The print reference collection had seen such little use that most items on the shelves sported a layer of dust, particularly had started to organize themselves into dust when the books had not been used in the thirty years or how low use, had remained on the shelves for years. It was not uncommon to find books that lacked barcodes — an indication that the book had not been used in the thirty years since the Libraries had migrated from a card catalog/computer punch card system to an automated ILS. It was also not uncommon to find books that had acquired layers upon layers of dust. The dust on the books created a historical lack of regular weeding of the collections. Regularly scheduled weeding ensures that collections remain relevant and used. The Libraries had done some periodic weeding over the past twenty years, but there was no consistent weeding plan for print materials, even when long print serials back files had been acquired in electronic resources packages. The Libraries do not currently have off-site storage warehousing for low use materials, so print items, no matter how out of date or how low use, had remained on the shelves for years. It was not uncommon to find books that lacked barcodes — an indication that the book had not been used in the thirty years since the Libraries had migrated from a card catalog/computer punch card system to an automated ILS. It was also not uncommon to find books that had acquired layers upon layers of dust. Indeed, some layers of dust had started to organize themselves into dust bunnies. The dust on the books created a suspension of decision making and risk taking in academia.

Challenges, Simple and Profound

The major challenge in the project, despite the compressed project completion deadline, was a historical lack of regular weeding of the collections. Regularly scheduled weeding ensures that collections remain relevant and used. The Libraries had done some periodic weeding over the past twenty years, but there was no consistent weeding plan for print materials, even when long print serials back files had been acquired in electronic resources packages. The Libraries do not currently have off-site storage warehousing for low use materials, so print items, no matter how out of date or how low use, had remained on the shelves for years. It was not uncommon to find books that lacked barcodes — an indication that the book had not been used in the thirty years since the Libraries had migrated from a card catalog/computer punch card system to an automated ILS. It was also not uncommon to find books that had acquired layers upon layers of dust. Indeed, some layers of dust had started to organize themselves into dust bunnies. The dust on the books created