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Andrea Hebert Profile

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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of a challenge than economics (HB-HC) or finance (HG), where large serials runs duplicated in electronic resources were withdrawn to clear large swathes of shelf space.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 books 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.

against the grain people profile

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Cristina Caminita

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I've been active in ACRL's Science and Technology Section and currently serve as one of six directors for the **United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN)**. I was selected as an **ALA Emerging Leader** in 2013.

FAMILY: My husband **Kurt**, my five-year-old son **Thomas**, and Maggie, my dog.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I work out, I study languages, I hang out with my family, I walk my dog.

FAVORITE BOOKS: **Neal Stephenson's** *The Baroque Cycle*, **Hilary Mantel's** *A Place of Greater Safety* and her *Wolf Hall* novels, tons of nonfiction.

Bill Bryson is a favorite author.

PHILOSOPHY: Everyone else is making it up as they go along, too.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Continuing to change and innovate, and finding serendipitous victories among the challenges, particularly in academic library environments. The fast pace of technological change requires library entrepreneurs and innovators to keep up and take risks, and that is a challenge to the slower pace of decision making and risk taking in academia. 🌱



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 shelves sported a layer of dust, particularly after a number of years of investing collection development funds into online resources.

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

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Andrea Hebert

BORN AND LIVED: Abbeville, LA; Baton Rouge, LA; Athens, GA; Farmville, VA; Charlottesville, VA; Baton Rouge, LA (again).

FAMILY: My partner **Rodrigo** and a large extended Cajun family.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I run, try to learn how to cook, and binge watch TV series.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Too variable for a definite answer, but **Mark Lawrence's** *Broken Empire* series has been my guilty pleasure lately.

PHILOSOPHY: You always have choices; you just may not like them. Also, almost all of **AI Swarengen's** philosophical musings on *Deadwood*.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: The day I realized I had finally found the right career.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: According to **AI Swarengen**, "Announcing your plans is a good way to hear God laugh." I think that holds true in this case as well, so I can only share hopes, not predictions. I would like the environment surrounding publishing and academic libraries to change enough in five years that academic libraries no longer feel constrained by their past services and feel emboldened to take risks. 🌱

