Anatomy of Data-Driven Deselection Project

Doug Way, Grand Valley State University

Available at: http://works.bepress.com/doug_way/22/
Anatomy of a Data-Driven Deselection Project

Doug Way
Grand Valley State University Libraries
ALA Midwinter
January 22, 2011
Brief Background

• About GVSU
Brief Background

• About GVSU
• The Problem
  – New Library
Brief Background

• About GVSU
• The Problem
  – New Library
  – Off-site storage
Brief Background

• About GVSU
• The Problem
  – New Library
  – Off-site Storage
  – ASRS Systems
Brief Background

• About GVSU
• The Problem
• The Desire
  – Short-term
  – Long-term
Brief Background

• About GVSU
• The Problem
• The Desire
• The Plan
  – Data-driven deselection
  – Working with SCS
Developing Buy-in

- Existing Groundwork
- Rolled out idea
- Gathered input
  - What criteria did they use when weeding?
  - What did they want to use?
Identifying Criteria to Use

• Has it been used?
  – Zero circs since 1998

• How old is it?
  – Published prior to 2000

• Has it gotten good reviews?
  – Reviewed in Choice

• Is it on standard lists?
  – Resources for College Libraries

• Do other libraries own it?
  – 100 libraries in the U.S.
Exchange of Data

- Sent SCS our Circulation and holdings data
- Received back a list of potential withdrawal and preservation candidates
Visit from SCS

Meet with Liaisons
Review Lists & Criteria
Discuss Workflows
Revision of Lists

• Narrow or broaden criteria

• Varied by liaison
  - Circulation, Holdings (nationally & in state)

• Ended up adding another 9,000 titles to the list
Review of Candidates

- Virtual / No Physical Review
- Staged
- Flagged
Retention of Candidates

- Rationale behind process
- Reasons for Keeping Books
Retention of Candidates

• Rationale behind process
• Reasons for Keeping Books

- **1. Classic Work**
  Essential titles in a field of study. Examples might include Blassingame's *The Slave Community* or Griffin's *Black Like Me*. Essential reference works might also fall into this category.

- **2. Biography**
  This is in some ways a variation on number one because not all biographies will have lasting value, especially depending on the subject of the biography.

- **3. Major Author**
  Examples might include John Hope Franklin or John Dewey.

- **4. Important press or series in this field of study**
  Examples might include the Geological Society of America in field of geology or Loeb Classical Library in classics.

- **5. Supports area of emerging curricular growth**
  An example might be a new minor, major or emphasis.

- **6. Part of a set**
  This would be where volume 2 is slated for discard, but volumes 1 and 3 are not.
Results

Just over 86% of withdrawal candidates were removed from the collection
## Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Total Items in Storage</th>
<th>Withdrawal Candidates</th>
<th>Saved</th>
<th>Candidates Withdrawn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>53,020</td>
<td>24,391</td>
<td>4,412</td>
<td>19,979 (82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>13500</td>
<td>5,388</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>4,865 (90.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science / Technology / Engineering</td>
<td>16,638</td>
<td>7,644</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>7,450 (97.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>4,593</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1,059 (85.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>87,751</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,662</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,309</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,353 (86%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Behind the Curtain

- All candidates initially suppressed
- Rationales for retained books were batch uploaded
- Items with no rationale were withdrawn
- Batch removal of OCLC holdings
- Withdrawn titles were recycled

CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 / Faria! / http://www.flickr.com/photos/fariac/2119655934/sizes/o/in/photostream/
Communication
Next Steps
Next Steps

• Shared Storage Project

• Weed of open Shelves & existing ASRS

• Long-term: automate the weeding process
Thank You

wayd@gvsu.edu
works.bepress.com/doug_way