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A Data-Driven Deselection Approach for Managing Low-Use Print Materials

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Why Weed?



Why Weed?

- Libraries are increasingly crunched for space
- Over-filled stacks create noise in the collection

Why Weed?

- In most libraries a large percentage of books never circulate
 - Kent Study: 40% of books never circulated
 - Cornell: 55% of books published since 1990
 - GVSU: 30% of our collection

Kent, Allen. 1979. *Use of library materials: the University of Pittsburgh study*. New York: M. Dekker.

Report of the Collection Development Executive Committee Task Force on Print Collection Usage.
Cornell University Library,
http://staffweb.library.cornell.edu/system/files/CollectionUsageTF_ReportFinal11-22-10.pdf

Why Weed?

- A small percentage of the collection accounts for the majority of the use
 - Before: Trueswell's 80-20 Rule
 - Now: OhioLink's 80-6 Rule

Trueswell, Richard. 1969. "Some Behavioral Patterns of Library Users: The 80/20 Rule. *Wilson Library Bulletin*, 43 (5), 458-61.

Edward T. O'Neill, and Julia Gammon. 2011. *OhioLINK—OCLC collection and circulation analysis project 2011*. Online Computer Library Center.
<http://www.oclc.org/resources/research/publications/library/2011/2011-06.pdf>

Why Weed?

- It's expensive to keep unused or under-used items on the shelves
 - Courant and Nielsen: \$4.26/year

Council on Library and Information Resources. 2010. *The idea of order: transforming research collections for 21st century scholarship*. Washington, D.C.: Council on Library and Information Resources.

Why Weed?

- Technology and resource-sharing make stand-alone collections less critical
 - PDA
 - Union Catalogs
 - Collaborative Storage and Preservation
 - *MI-SPI and WEST*
 - Digitization Projects
 - *HathiTrust*

Why Automate the Weeding Process?



Weeding is time consuming

Weeding often put off and builds up over time

Weeding practices are not routinized

Weeding can be emotional

The GVSU Story



The GVSU Story

- The Problem
 - New Library



The GVSU Story

- The Problem
 - New Library



The GVSU Story

- The Problem
 - New Library
 - Off-site Storage



The GVSU Story

- The Problem
 - New Library
 - Off-site Storage
 - ASRS Systems



The GVSU Story

- The Problem
 - New Library
 - Off-site Storage
 - ASRS Systems
- The Desire
 - Short-term
 - Long-term



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Brief Background

- The Problem
 - New Library
 - Off-site Storage
 - ASRS Systems
- The Desire
 - Short-term
 - Long-term
- The Idea?



The Disapproval Plan

- Lugg and Fischer
 - Tools exist to make weeding:
 - Easier
 - Less Risky
 - More Accurate
 - Rules-based, data-driven approach

Future Tense — Weeding: The Time

by Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer (R2 Consulting LLC, 63 Woodwell's Garrison, C
5991; Fax: 603-746-6052) <rick@r2consulting.org> www.r2consulting.org

On a recent flight from Manchester to Chicago, it occurred to me that I must have been the only person in the world who had chosen Stanley J. Slote's 1997 classic *Weeding Library Collections: Library Weeding Methods* for airplane reading. I can't imagine why. Who would choose Dick Francis or even P.J. O'Rourke over a work that begins with this choice 1787 epigraph from the Reverend Reginald Heber: "A small collection of well chosen books is sufficient for the entertainment and instruction of any man, and all else are useless Lumber." Although the work is somewhat dated ("The Book Card Method" occupies an entire chapter) it remains an excellent practical book in its articulation of weeding.

are more than 90% full, one component of the plan calls for weeding of 175,000-350,000 volumes.

- The University of California, Santa Cruz, as part of a building renovation, had to select and move 50,000 volumes to the UC System's Northern Research Library Center in a three-month period. It is unclear how many of those will return to the library when the renovation is complete.
- The University of

Future Tense — The Disapproval Plan: Rules-Based Weeding & Storage Decisions

by Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer (R2 Consulting LLC, 63 Woodwell's Garrison, Contoocook, NH 03229; Phone: 603-746-5991; Fax: 603-746-6052) <rick@r2consulting.org> www.r2consulting.org

Credit where credit is due. Much as we'd like to claim to have originated the phrase "disapproval plan," it happened like this. During a workflow analysis project at Davidson College, R2 had written this recommendation: "Adopt a rules-based approach to weeding monographs." In explaining it, we suggested that the Library collaborate with teaching faculty (who have the final say on selection and de-selection at Davidson) to define categories of books that could be withdrawn without title-by-title review, enabling a batch approach to some weeding decisions. As we elaborated on the idea for Jill Gremmels, Director of the library at Davidson, we characterized it as a sort of "reverse approval plan." She smiled with a laugh, "Oh, you mean a disapproval plan."

aspects of Medicine).

Selection Metadata – Subject Classification: Most vendors support subject description based on the major classification schemes: LC, DDC, NLM, and/or their own subject thesaurus. Content is described in accordance with library practice, and most titles are classified in more than one of these schemes, to enable the vendor to support profile rules that match the individual library's approach.

Library Profile: Typically, the library uses the same vocabulary of selection metadata to describe its collecting interests and priorities — the rules to be applied to the universe of newly published content.

Application of Rules: Each of the selection metadata components is used to describe the content being considered for weeding. That selectors want

Establishing Criteria

- Was it used?
 - How old is it?
 - Has it gotten good reviews?
 - Is it on standard lists?
 - Do other libraries own it?

Lists of Candidates



Revision by Librarians

- Narrow or broaden criteria
- Varied by liaison
 - Circulation, Holdings (nationally & in state)
- Ended up adding another 9,000 titles to the list



More Lists of Candidates



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.

Where did we End Up?

Just over 86% (*33,000 items*) of withdrawal candidates were removed from collection

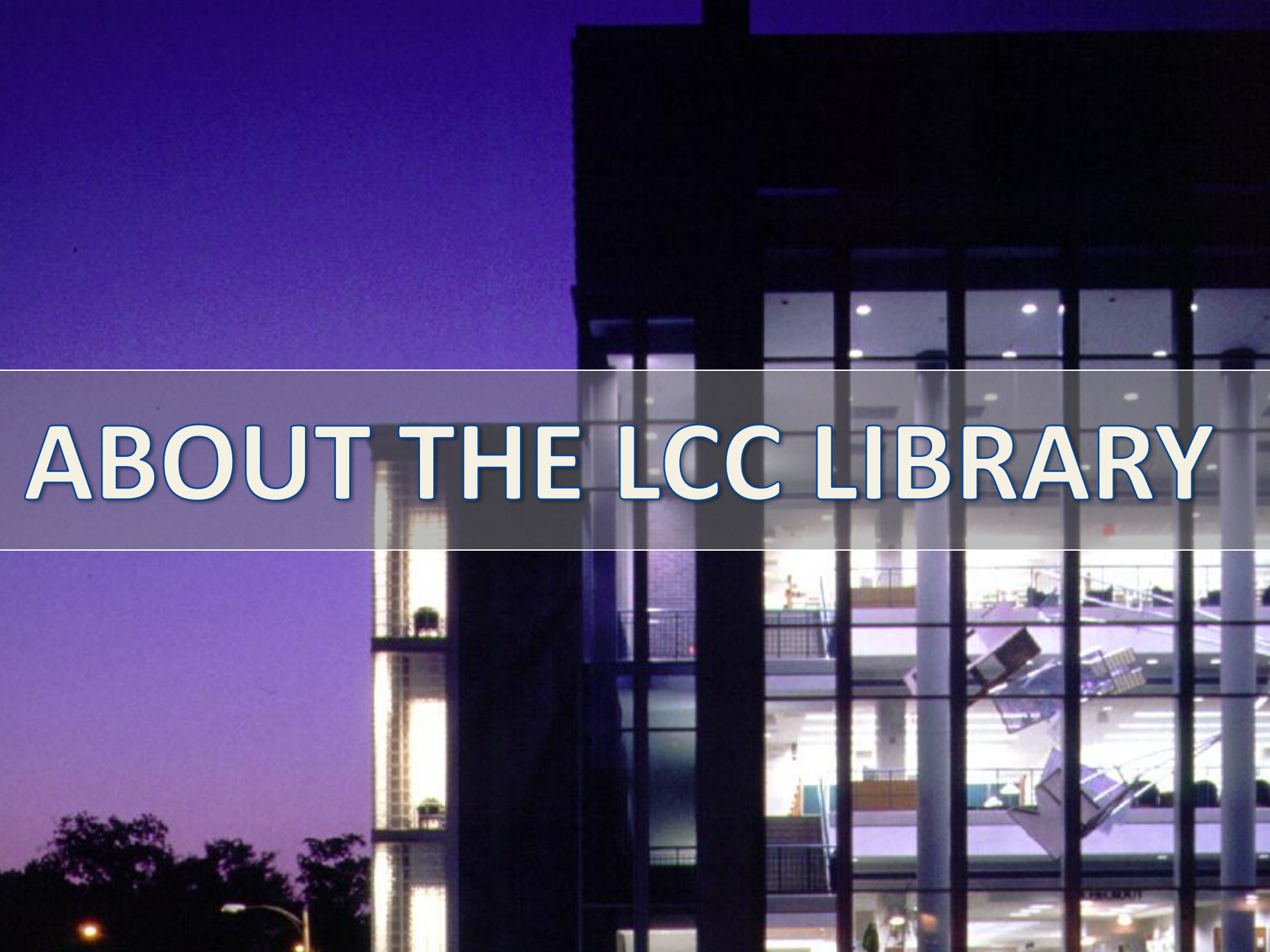


Where did we End Up?

Epilogue

- Summer 2012 Project
- Michigan Shared Print Initiative
- Implementing a “Disapproval Plan”





ABOUT THE LCC LIBRARY

LCC Library

- 3rd largest community college (in enrollment) in MI
- 113,000 volumes print collection
- 176,000+ e-books, e-journals, online gov't docs
- 4,300 audiovisual materials
- 122 research databases
- 155 print periodicals subscriptions
- Staff: 10 FT and 12 PT (Admin, Librarian and Support)

Our problem

- Old and outdated collection
- Low circulation
- Overcrowding

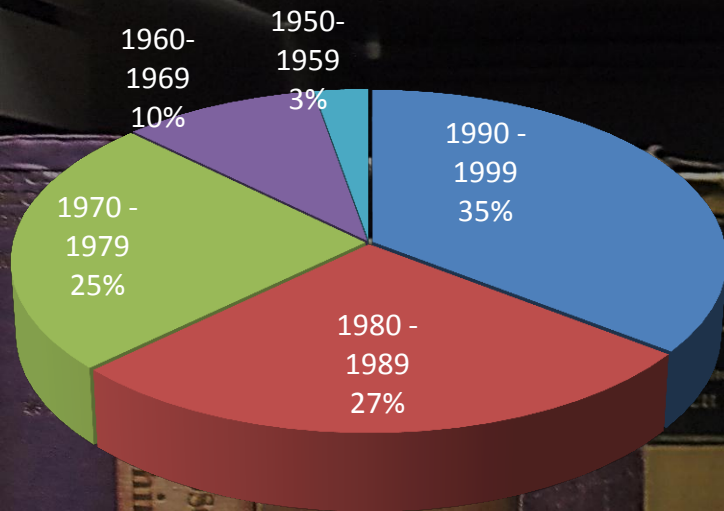


Aging Collection

- 59% (67,517 items) of print collection from 1950-1999

- 34% (38,544) from 2000-2009

- 4% (4,493) from 2010 to present



Top 12 Oldest Items by LC Class

D - DZ	5627
PS	5407
HV6001 -	2975
L - LZ	2919
PR	2489
KF	2513
HQ503 - HQ1100	2464
RC321 - RC951	2137
HF5001 - HF5600	2110
E186 - E999	2080
GV - GV1579	2013
J - JZ	1984

Low Circulation

- 23% of print collection never circulated (0)
- 19% circulated once (1)
- 13% circulated twice (2)

56% of total collection

Solution?

- Systematic weeding
- Partnership with SCS (Sustainable Collection Services)
- Deselection decision based on data (internal/external)

Weeding criteria

- Books published 1999 or earlier with 0 or 1 total checkouts
- More than 10 holdings available via MeLCat participating libraries
- Not listed in Resources for College Libraries (RCL)
- Never reviewed in Choice

A	B	C	D
<div> <div>Sustainable Collection Services</div> <div>SCS</div> </div>	Lansing Community College Collection Summary		
	Titles	Items	Percent of Filtered Item Records
All Records	97,222	101,523	n/a
Counts for individual candidate lists			
Withdrawal Candidates 1 (standard) - Published prior to 1990; fewer than 2 circulations; and more than 50 US holdings (WorldCat)	21,080	21,376	21%
Withdrawal Candidates 2 - Published prior to 2000; fewer than 2 circulations; more than 10 holdings in Michigan; not listed in RCL; and never reviewed in CHOICE	18,277	18,531	19%
Withdrawal Candidates 3 - Published prior to 2000; fewer than 3 circulations; more than 10 holdings in Michigan; not listed in RCL; and never reviewed in CHOICE	23,910	24,294	24%
Withdrawal Candidates 4 - Published prior to 2000; fewer than 4 circulations; more than 10 holdings in Michigan; not listed in RCL; and never reviewed in CHOICE	27,664	28,146	28%
Withdrawal Candidates 5 - Published prior to 2000; fewer than 5 circulations; more than 10 holdings in Michigan; not listed in RCL; and never reviewed in CHOICE	30,295	30,875	31%
Preservation Candidates - Fewer than 5 US holdings; OR no other holdings in Michigan	3,004	3,180	3%

Revisions and Decisions

- Adopted scenario 3 criteria
- Assumed that ALL titles in the candidate list will be pulled out from the collection
- Paper review of candidate list
- In-stack review

Started with










Let's look at the numbers... before



24,294

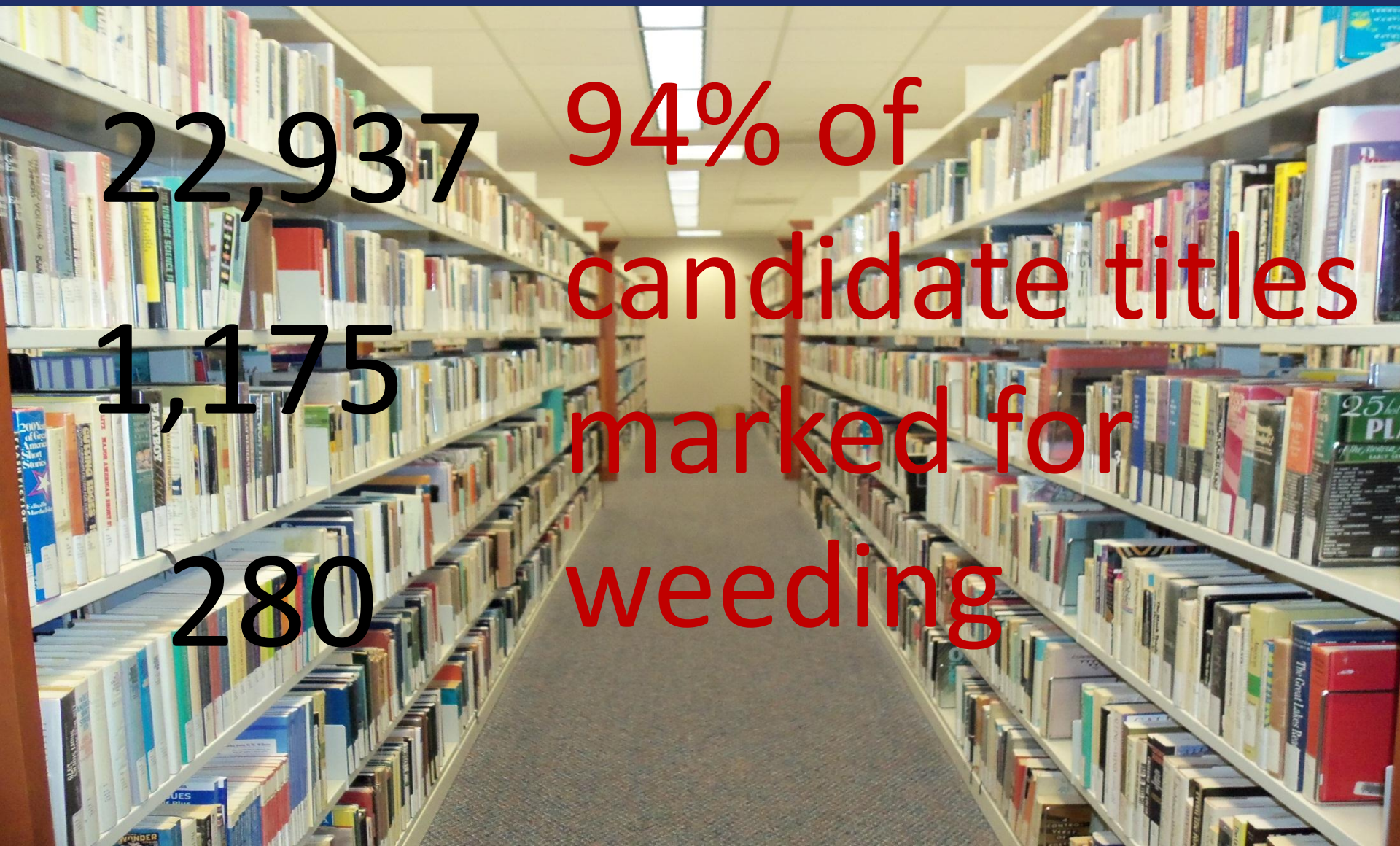
Let's look at the numbers... after

22,937

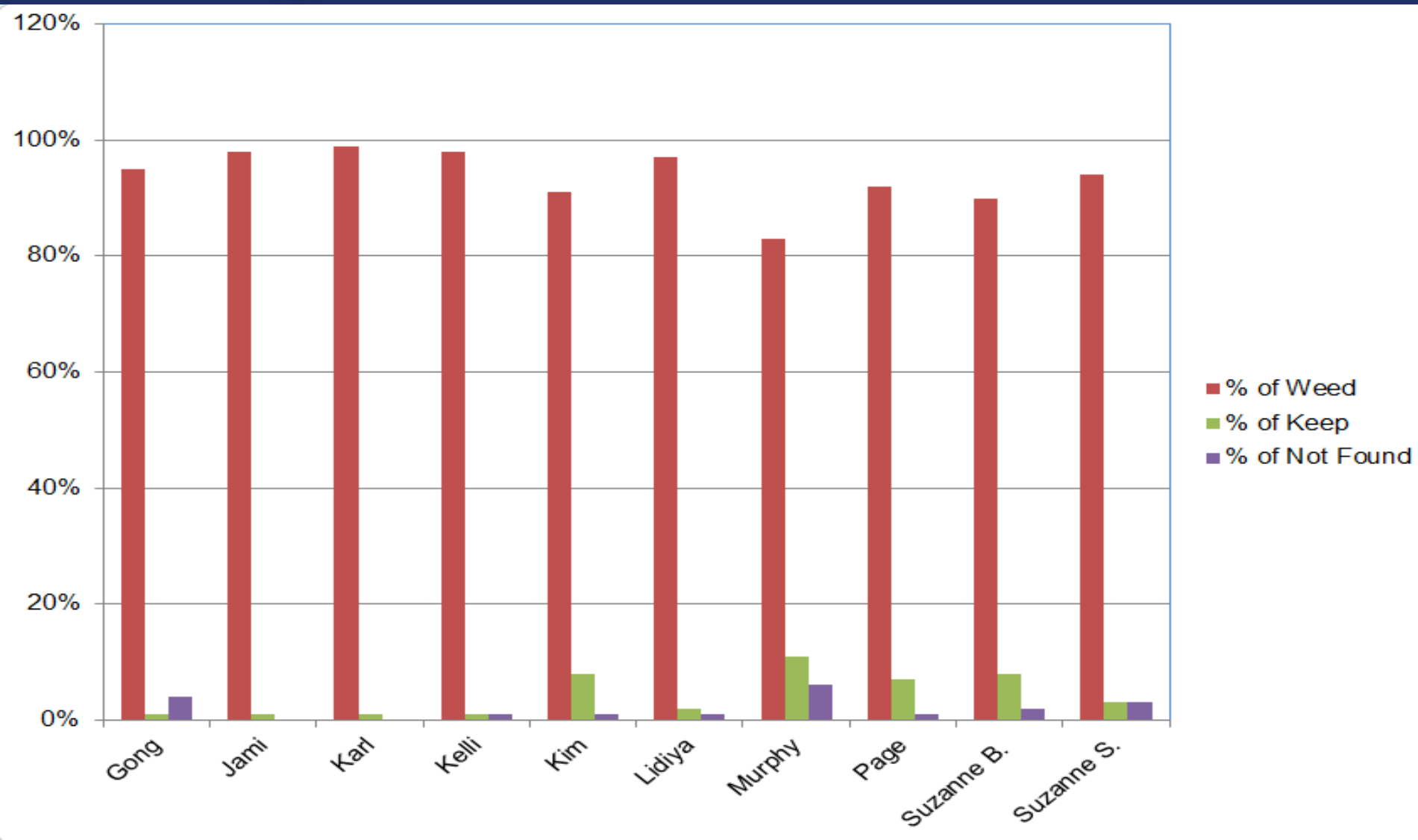
1,175

280

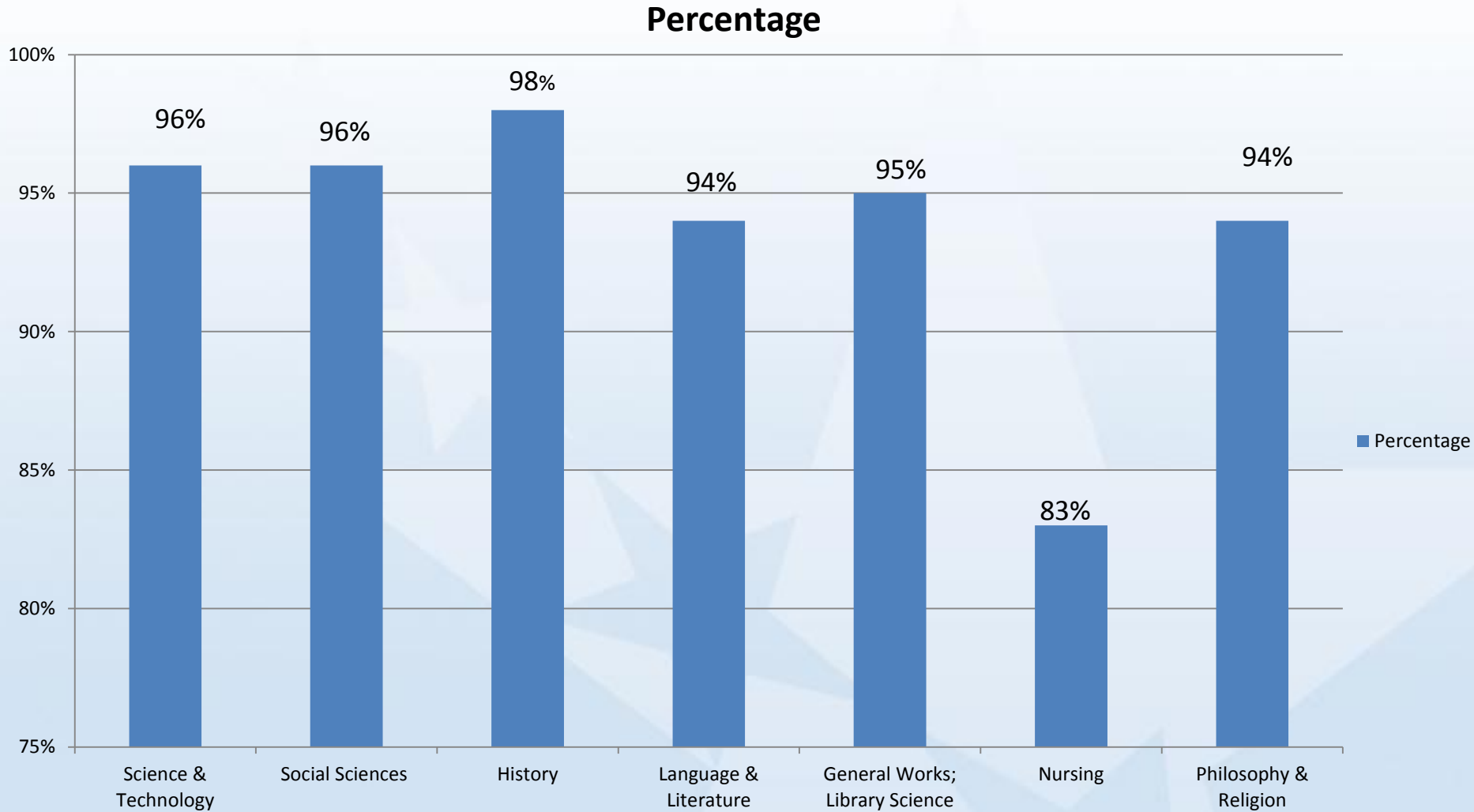
94% of
candidate titles
marked for
weeding



Statistics by librarian (percentage)



Statistics by subject



What happens to the records?

- Weeded titles still in the catalog
- Titles not found by librarians were searched by student staff at Tech Services
- Titles found were forwarded to librarians to decide if weed or keep
- Titles not found were marked “missing”
- Bib records will be completely deleted once the items leave the library in May 2013.

What now weeded books?



- Will not be sold in the Library's Annual Book Bash
- Will have a 3rd party book reseller handle the removal from library premises (Mission-Based Books)

Next steps: more weeding

- List was generated in Millennium based on :
 - 101,574 (Total no. of items submitted to SCS for weeding)
 - 22,815 (actual items marked for weeding)

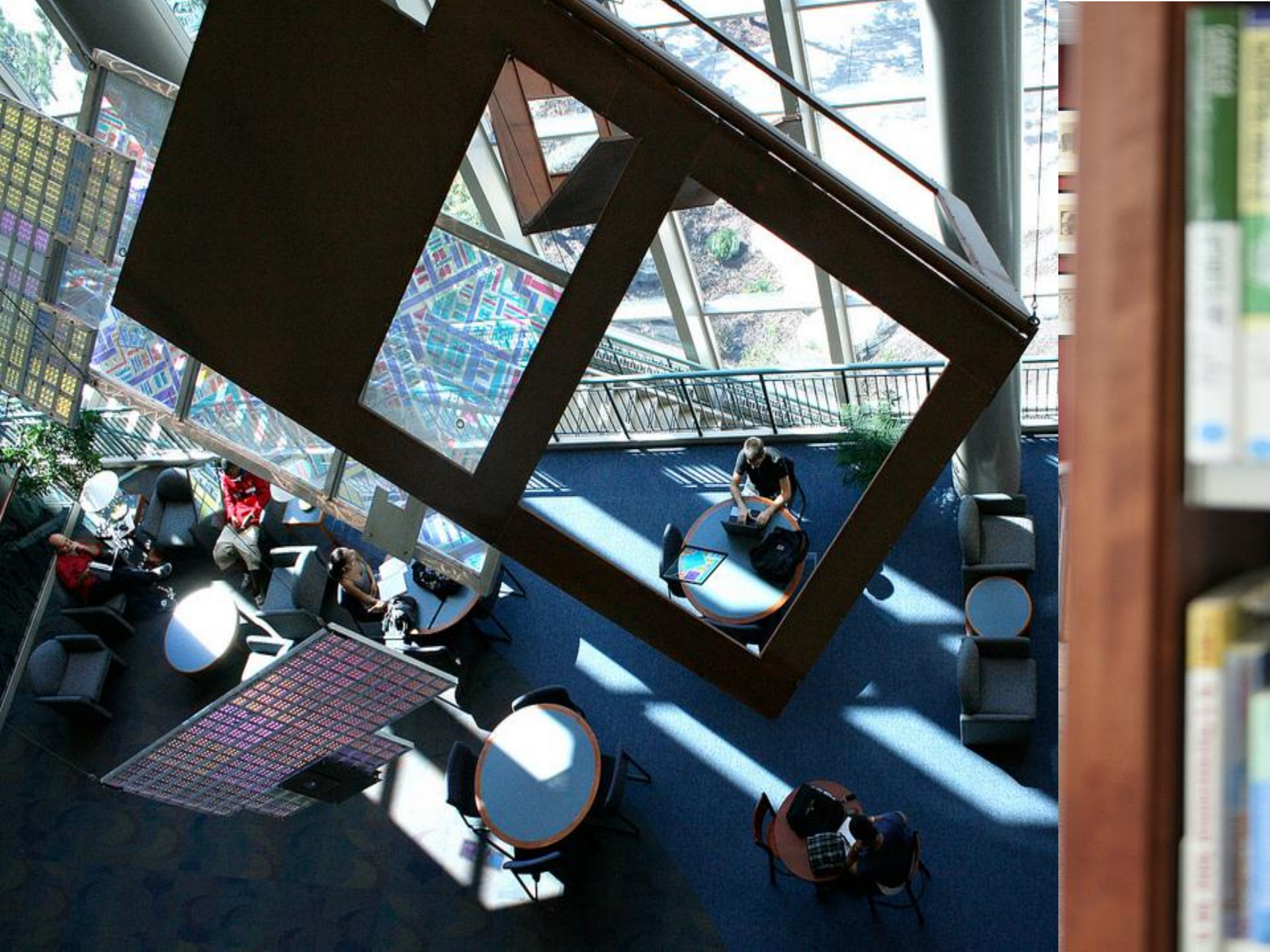
78,763 *

* Out of this number, how many are titles published between 1898 to 1999?
- 14,386 → out of this number, how many have 0 to 3 total checkouts?

8,336 items

Collection development direction

- Collection assessment project to identify gaps in collection
- Shift in mindset from “just-in-case” to “just-in-time”
- Less firm ordering and more patron-driven or demand-driven acquisition

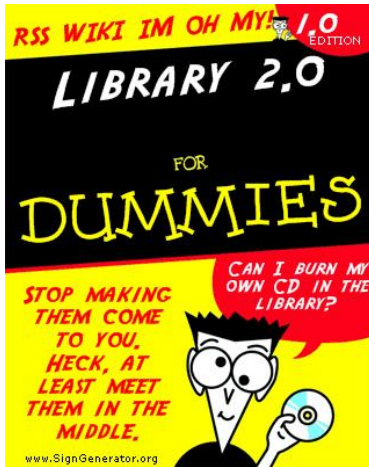




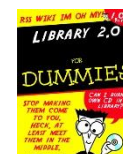
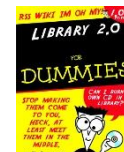
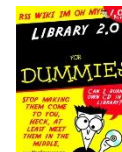
Shared Print Initiative

2011: Michigan's publicly-supported universities sought to devise a collaborative approach to shared print collections

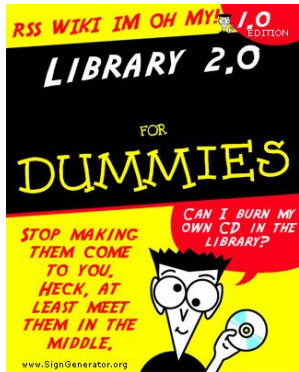
Why a Shared Print Initiative?



= 0 circulation

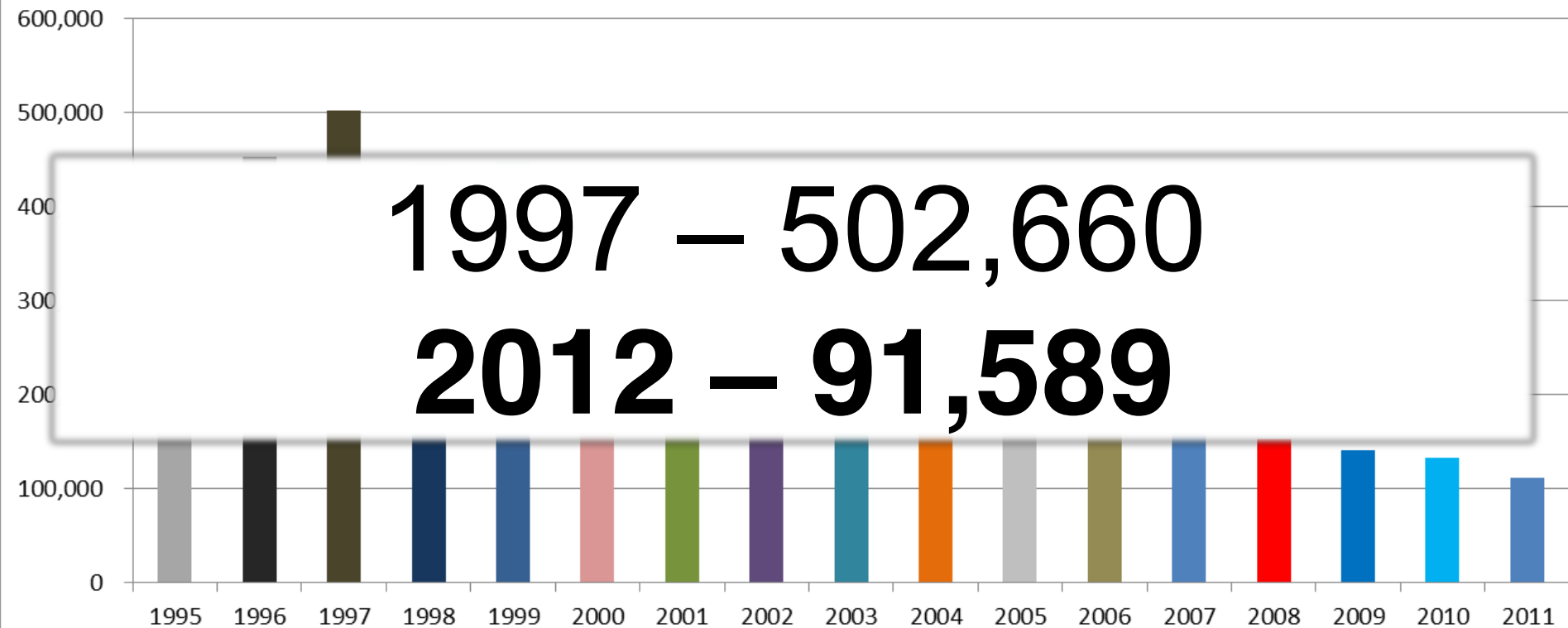


Why a Shared Print Initiative?



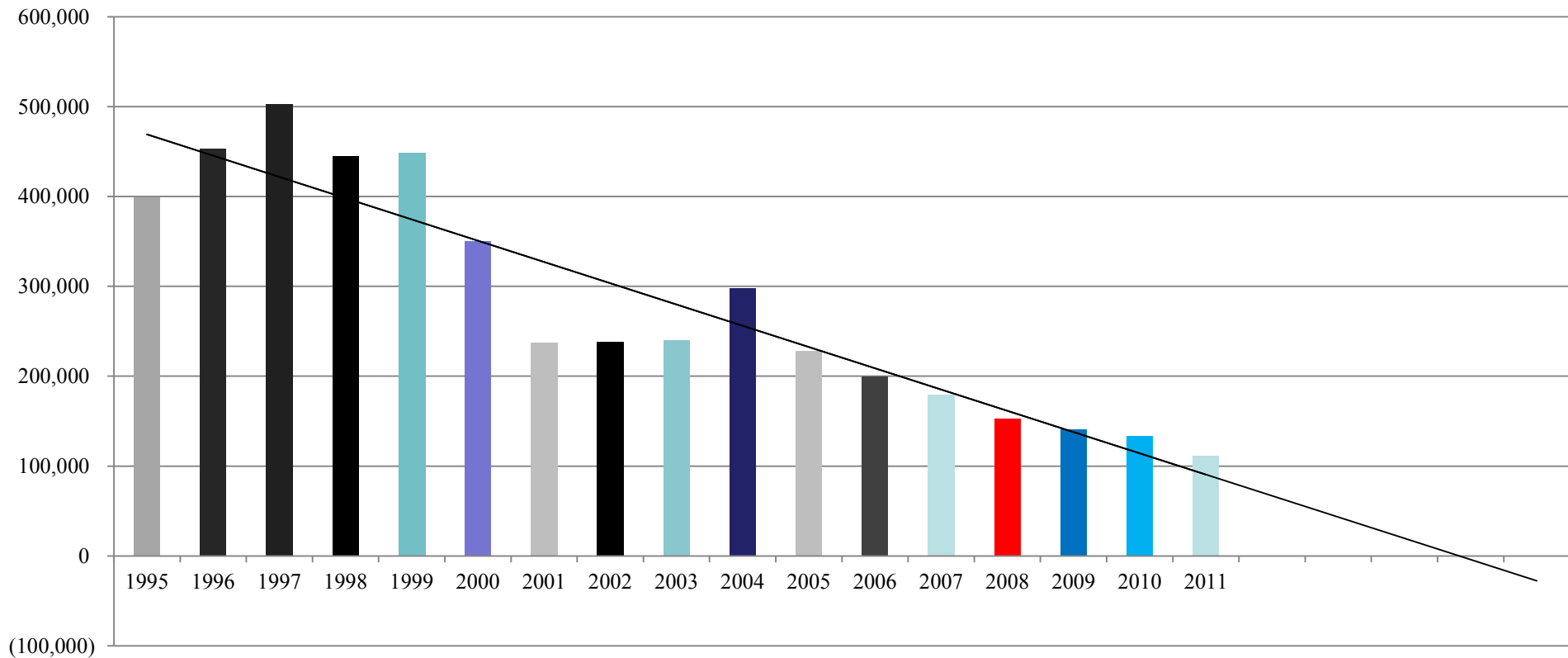
WSU Perspective

Total Circulation
(Excluding Reserves)

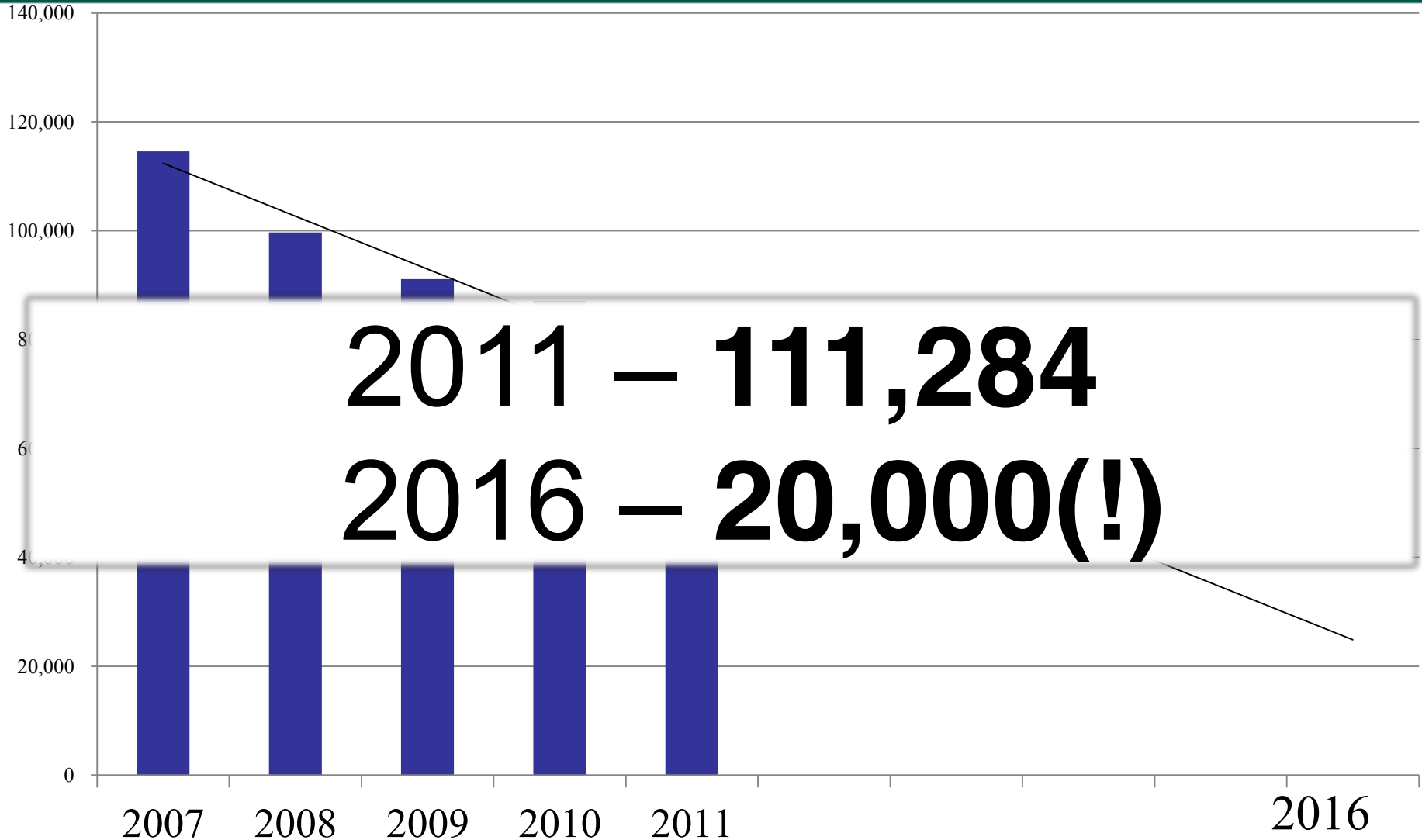


WSU Perspective

**Total Circulation
(Excluding Reserves)**



WSU Perspective



WSU Perspective

Dropping by
ave 12% per year



4,389 “browsing” checkouts in 2012* /
\$105,000 staff cost

\$23.92 per checkout

Rising by 1.9% per
year (salary only)



* Science and Engineering Library

WSU Perspective

	Circulation	Cost	Cost Per Item
2012	4,389	\$ 105,000	\$ 23.92
2013	3,862	\$ 106,995	\$ 27.70
2014	3,399	\$ 109,028	\$ 32.08
2015	2,991	\$ 111,099	\$ 37.14
2016	2,632	\$ 113,210	\$ 43.01
2017	2,316	\$ 115,361	\$ 49.81

Circulation Counts

Total Charges = 0	1,677,528	1,826,190	42%
Total Charges = 1 or less	2,331,467	2,530,936	58%
Year-to-Date Charges = 0	3,685,443	4,097,384	94%

42% - Zero Charges

58% - One Charge

WSU Perspective

13%

Average annual
circulation rate from
open stacks

1-2%

Average annual
circulation rate from
high-density storage

If a book did not circulate during
first 6 years, chances of it ever
circulating were 1 in 50



Michigan Collaboration

- Michigan libraries have long recognized the advantages of working collaboratively:
 - COLD,
 - MeLCat,
 - Michicard,
 - etc
- Clear value to a regional approach
- Easier than shared storage

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Collaborative Collection Development: A Practical Guide for Your Library

Reviewed by Priscilla L. Stephenson

Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, Tennessee

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James Burgett, John Haar, and Linda L. Phillips.

Collaborative Collection Development: A Practical Guide for Your Library.

Chicago, IL: American Library Association. c. 2004. 211p. \$42.00. ISBN: 0-8389-0881-0

James Burgett, John Haar, and Linda L. Phillips are the current leaders of the Information Alliance, a successful coordinated collection development (CCD) project organized by the central libraries at the University of Tennessee, the University of Kentucky, and Vanderbilt University. With the alliance now ten years



Shared Print Initiative

Council of Library
Deans/Directors, in
conjunction with MCLS and
Sustainable Collection
Services (SCS), have
developed a collaborative
approach to maintaining
print collections.





Project Participants

- Eastern Michigan
- Grand Valley State University
- Central Michigan
- Michigan Technological University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan
- Ferris State University
- Oakland University

Project Basics

- Identify overlapping monographic titles and compare overlap results across the group
- Identify titles that are commonly-held with low to no circulation history
- Agree to collectively retain a minimum number of each title
- Allow institutions to withdraw redundant copies as they see fit



Memorandum of Understanding

Michigan Shared Print Initiative
MOU Consideration
May 9, 2012

MOU for Michigan Shared Print Initiative (MI-SPDI) Participants

Project Goals

The project has two distinct goals:

First, to responsibly reduce the size of local print collections by reducing duplication of low circulating titles among the participating libraries so that library space may be freed up for other uses.

Second, to create and maintain a distributed, shared collection of these identified monograph titles to ensure that circulating copies of them are retained within the group, readily accessible to group participants and other Michigan libraries.

Guiding Principles

Participant libraries are committed to work together collaboratively to meet the Project Goals above for a minimum of 15 years (with options for review, renewal and dissolution as outlined below). We recognize that some of the specifics of this collaboration including the number of print titles covered, the participating libraries involved and details of responsibilities are likely to change over time and that adjustments will be desirable.

The MOU commitment is to work in consultation with each other for 15 years to responsibly, collaboratively and transparently manage the shared print collection that is a result of our joint

Project Scope

- Monographs only
- Multi-volume monographic sets

YES

- No serials
- No “Special” collections
- No Gov. Docs, Reference, Reserves, etc...

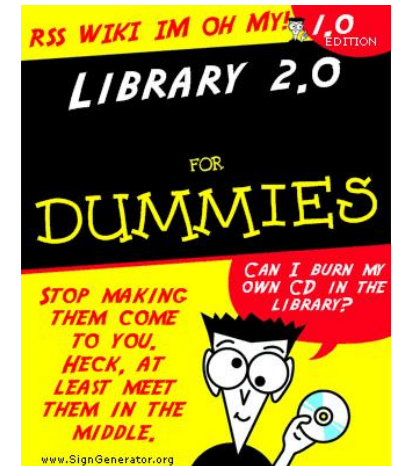
NO

Three Components

1. Unique titles held **ONLY** by one library within group
2. Shared titles with low use
3. Retention list

Component 1: Unique Titles

- Unique locally held titles varies by library
- Criteria for identification:
 - Pre- 2005
 - Zero circs since 1999
 - More than 50 US holdings in OCLC or Hathi Trust match
- Individual library decides how to handle



Component 1: Unique Titles @ WSU

- Local needs criteria
- 10% reduction from pull lists
- *No direct staff analysis*
- JIT vs. JIC

TOTAL RECORDS ON LIST		Allocated WD	Unique title WD	Total	
		196099	172352	368451	
Recommended Removal from SCS pull lists - saves		Allocated WD	Unique title WD	Total	Percentage saved
Titles that are consider part of "special" collection or part of major gift or development initiatives: There are a number of special collections among our circulating materials (e.g. Kasle collection). Major gifts and development initiatives include such things as Honors with Books. Such items will be identified by indication in their catalog records or by bookplates.		1100	2356	3456	0.94%
Titles being considered for move to Special Collection -- Detroit poets					
Titles being considered for move to Special Collection -- small press publications		52	10	62	0.02%
Titles published before 1850 - does not include juv		8	1303	1311	0.36%
Titles concerning Wayne State University or local history (i.e., Detroit and Wayne County): Titles will be identified by searches on subject headings, title words, and LC/Dewey classification. -does not include juv (Michigan Documents identified by author or publication information)	Detroit / tri county	175	159	334	0.09%
	MI DOCS	1016	176	1192	0.32%
	MI outside tri-county - not MI doc	957	144	1101	0.30%

Component 2: Shared Titles

- 3 or fewer circulations since 1999
- Pub date or add date prior to 2005
- Held by more than 2 libraries
- Projected withdrawal total is 534,039



Component 3: Retention List

- List of items to retain for each participating library
Generated by SCS's algorithm
- Retention assignments tied to circulation as much as possible



Title Allocation

Library	Retention Count	Withdrawal Count
WSU	172,425	168,585
EMU	172,425	67,221
C		
M		
SVSU	20,004	52,724
Y		
WMU	172,004	111,607

WSU Withdrawal – 168,585

+ Unique – 180,030

+ Deduping – lots! (10k so far)

Total: 332,915

WSU Outcomes

- Phase 1:
 - Storage Area
 - P/K Library Third Floor
- Phase 2: Ongoing

WSU Outcomes

Project/Location	Withdrawn Items
SCS	
P/K Library	65,671
Storage	83,049
Deduping	
PK	2291
Storage	9800
Total	<u>160,811</u>

◀ HC 59
HC 41

P/K 3rd Floor



P/K 2rd Floor



MI-SPI Long Term Goals

- Stand down print collections
- Improve study space, promote library as place
- Help to identify potential titles for digitization and inclusion into Hathi Trust
- Continue to build “collective collections” in Michigan and US

MI-SPI Long Term Goals

- Ongoing discussions about:
 - Joint acquisitions
 - “Iterative” process, including more partners
 - Managing missing items
 - Collaborative database
 - Serials?



Questions?

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