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Weeding Ebooks at an Academic Library (Presentation)

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Weeding Ebooks at an Academic Library

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KEEP
SOCIAL
DISTANCE

PLEASE WAIT HERE



Weeding Ebooks at an Academic Library

- **Why weed?**
 - Print
 - Ebooks
- **Franklin University Library
Ebook Weeding Project**
 - DDA
 - Owned
- **Obstacles / Decisions**
- **What / How**
- **Results / Takeaways**

Franklin University

- Columbus, Ohio
- FTE around 4,000
- In Person / Online
- Adult Students
- Undergraduate, Graduate, Doctoral

Franklin University Library

- 6 Librarians (4 liaison librarians)
- 17,000 – 18,000 physical books
- Access to over 350,000 ebooks



At the Mention of an Upcoming Weeding Project, You Feel:

Emotional Reaction	% of Respondents
Anxious	21
Neutral	25.2
Good	27.1
Excited	26.7

Reno, L., & Lowe, M. (2017). Into the weeds: Emotions and deselection in the library. In S. Hines, & M. Matteson (Eds.), *Emotion in the library workplace* (1st ed.), p. 113. Emerald Publishing Limited.

Why Weed?

Health of Collection

Easier to
find

Relevance

Outdated
material

Condition

Weeding At Franklin: Physical Books

- Is it outdated?
- Does it provide misinformation?
- Is it irrelevant to our collection/patrons? (Does it support our current curriculum?)
- Do we have duplicate copies?
- Do we have a newer edition?
- Is it in poor condition?

Weeding At Franklin: Ebooks

- Is it outdated?
- Does it provide misinformation?
- Is it irrelevant to our collection/patrons? (Does it support our current curriculum?)
- Do we have duplicate copies?
- Do we have a newer edition?
- ~~Is it in poor condition?~~

Functional Differences for Weeding E/P

Condition

Ownership

Management

Number

Our Ebook Collection ≈ 350,000 titles

- Owned titles (directly purchased)
- Owned titles (membership in OhioLINK)
 - Controlled by OhioLINK
 - Purchased through OhioLINK
- Leased titles (packages)
- DDA (Demand Driven Acquisition) titles

DDA (Demand Driven Acquisition)

- Through Ebook Central (managed by GOBI)
- Began 2016
 - Titles added, never removed (unless purchased)
 - Initial load
 - Slip plan
 - Liaison selection
 - Changes in focus / selection plan

DDA (Demand Driven Acquisition)

GOBI provided spreadsheet

- 13,175 titles in DDA pool
- Date added
- Method added

DDA (Demand Driven Acquisition)

Years After Publication	Number of DDA Titles Purchased
0	41
1	43
2	23
3	10
4	4
5	3
6	4
7	0
8	1
9	1
10+	3



DDA (Demand Driven Acquisition)

Older than 3 years

- Remove titles added by auto selection
- Review titles added by liaison selection

Within 3 years

- Keep all titles meeting current slip plan
- Review all titles outside of slip plan added by liaison
- Remove all titles outside of slip plan added automatically

DDA (Demand Driven Acquisition)

Results

- Automatically keep: 3,057 titles
- Automatically remove: 9,338 titles
- Review by liaison librarians: 780 titles
 - Keep: 318
 - Remove: 462

Final numbers

- Keep: 3,375
- Remove: 9,800

Method

- Spreadsheet to GOBI

Can we weed ebooks?

- ICON Health & Economic Studies Books
 - LSU Library
 - Waugh, M., Donlin, M., & Braunstein, S. (2015). Next-generation collection management: A case study of quality control and weeding e-books in an academic library. *Collection Management*, 40(1), 17-26.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01462679.2014.965864>

NetLibrary

Pilot Project

Can we weed ebooks?

- Method
 - Export list with ISBNs from Sierra
 - Email to EBSCO
 - EBSCO “hid” from search results
 - Delete from Sierra

NetLibrary

Pilot Project

Identifying what to weed

- Alternatives:
 - Remove all titles
 - Remove based on usage data
 - Liaison review

NetLibrary

Weeding Project

Identifying what to weed

- Alternatives:
 - Remove all titles
 - Remove based on usage data
 - Liaison review
- Size of collection: 14,735 ebooks
 - Size of reviewing staff: 4
 - 3,683.75 books / librarian

NetLibrary

Weeding Project

Limit by Dewey category

- Designate Review / Ignore
- 2 librarians review / 1 tiebreaker

Dewey Range	Disagree	Review	Ignore	Total
0-249	79	14	136	229
250-499	79	47	106	232
500-749	89	14	186	289
750-999	21	1	232	254
Totals	268	76	660	1004

- Tiebreaker: 94 / 268 review
- Total to review: 170 categories (7,921 titles)

NetLibrary

Weeding Project

ID top 10 “outdated” / 949 to review

Selected by 4

- 005 Computer programming, programs & data
- 610 Medicine & health

Selected by 3

- 000 Computer science, information & general works
- 003 Systems
- 364 Criminology

Selected by 2

- 004 Data processing & computer science
- 006 Special computer methods
- 330 Economics
- 351 Public administration
- 370 Education
- 384 Communications

NetLibrary

Weeding Project

Weeding At Franklin: Ebooks

- **Is it outdated?**
- Does it provide misinformation?
- Is it irrelevant to our collection/patrons? (Does it support our current curriculum?)
- ~~Do we have duplicate copies?~~
- ~~Do we have a newer edition?~~
- ~~Is it in poor condition?~~

- Marked for removal all but 8 education titles
- Alternatives:
 - Remove all titles
 - Remove based on usage data
 - Liaison review
 - Removal by category

Next steps:

- Faculty check
- Remove as in pilot program

NetLibrary

Weeding Project

Results – DDA Weeding

- Available titles match collection development goals
- Spending / budget
- Removed 74% of titles from DDA pool
 - (removed 9,800 of 13,175)

Results – NetLibrary Weeding

- ~~• Goal: remove outdated/irrelevant books~~
- ~~• Goal: make it easier to find content~~

Did not succeed

- Removed some outdated content
- Pilot removed 518 NetLibrary
- Removed 941 titles
- 9.5% of NetLibrary
- 0.4% of ebook collection

Results – NetLibrary Weeding

“These are truly old! Yes, please remove these books from the ebook collection. We really don’t want our students relying on such old books.”

(Baumlein, personal communication, August 6, 2020.)

Conclusion

- Periodic review / removal of DDA titles worthwhile
 - Repeated 2022: Same Process
 - Delete 3933 titles
 - Keep 2934 titles
 - Kept 42% (compared to initial kept 26%)
- Ebook weeding. Questions to consider
 - What is the purpose of the eweeding project?
 - Does the library realistically have the ability to meet these goals?
 - What does the library control and have the ability to remove?
 - Staff time / availability

For additional information about this project, see:

Jaffy, M. (2021). Weeding Ebooks at an Academic Library. *Practical Academic Librarianship: The International Journal of the SLA Academic Division*, 11 (1), 26-39. Retrieved from <https://fuse.franklin.edu/facstaff-pub/92>