WEEDING FOR A MOVE AND MERGER: BRILL SCIENCE LIBRARY, MIAMI UNIVERSITY

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Overview/Setting

- Brill Library – one of 4 MU main campus libraries; natural science, health science, engineering
- Laws/”BEST” Library – To open ~June 2011; will incorporate business and psychology into above. ~50% less shelf space than available in Brill alone.
- SWORD – Southwest Ohio Regional Depository. One of 5 offsite storage sites in U. System of Ohio Libraries. 1-2 day retrieval. ~90% full.
- OhioLink – 89-member State consortium of mostly academic libraries. OL central catalog and “P-circ” system enable user request of books from across state, 2-3 day retrieval.
Brill reducing print book collection ~30% in prep for move.

- 1’ criteria for weeding is 10 yr. circ history
- Fate of weeded items depends on consortial holdings: if 6^ or fewer copies, sent to SWORD; if 7+ copies, ours is withdrawn*

*Not a consortium policy -- practice local to Brill/MU
Laws Collection Management Plan

- Merged collections from two locations, with different histories, local management practices, use patterns
- Given limited availability of space, how much should each collection get?
- Zero-growth policy throughout library system; shelf space not being added on campus
- E-books
- How to make best use of available space?
Goal: want to allow growing, high use subject areas ability to grow on shelf (at expense of lesser-use items)

“Zero-growth” implies one book in, one book out

“One book out” gives selectors a target number of books to weed annually

Modify this by circulation rate for given subject (relative to overall circ rate for library)
  - Circulation rate based on 5 years of data
Scenario

- Biology: 0.08 circulations/item/year
- Business: 0.14 circulations/item/year
- Comp Science: 0.10 circulations/item/year
- Psychology: 0.18 circulations/item/year
- Overall: 0.12 circulations/item/year

- Biology adds 220 items in 2010. Must weed
  \[220 \times \frac{0.012}{0.08} = 330 \text{ items}\]
- Business adds 310 items in 2010. Must weed
  \[310 \times \frac{0.012}{0.014} = 266 \text{ items}\]

Individual items weeded deselected based on circulation
Overall, library stays at zero growth
Drawbacks

- May lead to drastic swings in weeding targets
  - Solution might be to “split difference” between original and adjusted targets

- If a subject area is not added to (zero in), then zero out; i.e., there’s no pressure to weed, even if unused
  - Less a problem if subjects are broad-based, so unused subjects are included within larger ranges
Formula could be further modified by other factors deemed of local importance, e.g.

- subj circ rate/overall circ rate
- subj retrieval rate from SWORD/overall retrieval
- enrollment in major/ average enrollment in major
- etc.

(We’ve found these factors often “tell the same story” and simply reinforce/exaggerate one another. KISS may apply.)
Business, psychology, some engineering disciplines will likely grow on shelf, at expense of some natural sciences

Are science selectors upset? Not overly...because we’re planning to shift to e-book purchases anyway (not a consideration in shelf management)

This policy will help “encourage” that shift