



Speed Weeding: When Space Needs are on the Horizon



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Existing Garden

- ✂ Weeding project already planned
- ✂ Largest floor of library reassigned to health system
- ✂ Major space crunch on campus
- ✂ Collection to be weeded and moved in four months!
- ✂ Off-campus storage provided opportunities for choices
 - Retain in collection
 - Store off-campus
 - De-select item
 - Offer to UNC Chapel Hill's Health Sciences Library

Problem: How to accelerate the process of a project intended to take one year



Speed Weeding the Garden

- ✂ Developing evaluation criteria
- ✂ Contracting with library movers
- ✂ Negotiating process with library storage facility
- ✂ Purchasing supplies
 - Barcode scanners and printers
 - Markers/dots for color coding
 - Cardboard storage trays
- ✂ Assembling teams
- ✂ Documenting weeding procedures
- ✂ Establishing timelines to allow parallel processes
- ✂ Generating reports and lists to assist with weeding decisions
 - Materials already in storage
 - Monographic series indexed in Medline
 - Brandon-Hill Lists
 - Journal volumes in electronic format
- ✂ Planning for uninterrupted patron and library services
- ✂ Marking volumes for discard, retention and storage
- ✂ Measuring linear feet and counting volumes
- ✂ Reading barcodes for discards and storage
- ✂ Changing location codes and deleting records in ILS using barcodes
- ✂ Monitoring the move for quality control



Weed-free Garden on the Horizon!

- ✂ Most pre-1985 journals stored
- ✂ Most pre-1995 books stored or de-selected, depending on usage
- ✂ Duplicates and rarely used materials discarded
- ✂ Post-1995 and heavily used books kept
- ✂ Majority of conference proceedings and foreign titles deselected due to low usage

Tending the Garden

- ✂ Benefits from partnership with School of Medicine and Health System
 - Funding for storage
 - Free copying/scanning of stored items
 - Renovations to library
- ✂ Fewer stacks needed, creating more space for patrons
- ✂ Collection more relevant and easier to use