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Behind the Scenes, Ready for Action: Cultivating and Conveying a Large-Scale Humanities Monograph Weeding Project with Campus Stakeholders

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Behind the scenes, ready for action:

Cultivating and conveying a large-scale humanities monograph weeding project with campus stakeholders

Heidi Gauder & Fred Jenkins, University of Dayton

Weeding in the news

In Face of Professors' 'Fury,' **Syracuse U. Library** Will Keep Books on Shelves [Chronicle 11/2009]

Library Protesters to **Ohio State U**.: Digital's OK, but Save Our Books! [Chronicle, 5/2009]

Half the books are checking out permanently (@ **Kent State U.**) [KentWired, 9/2010]

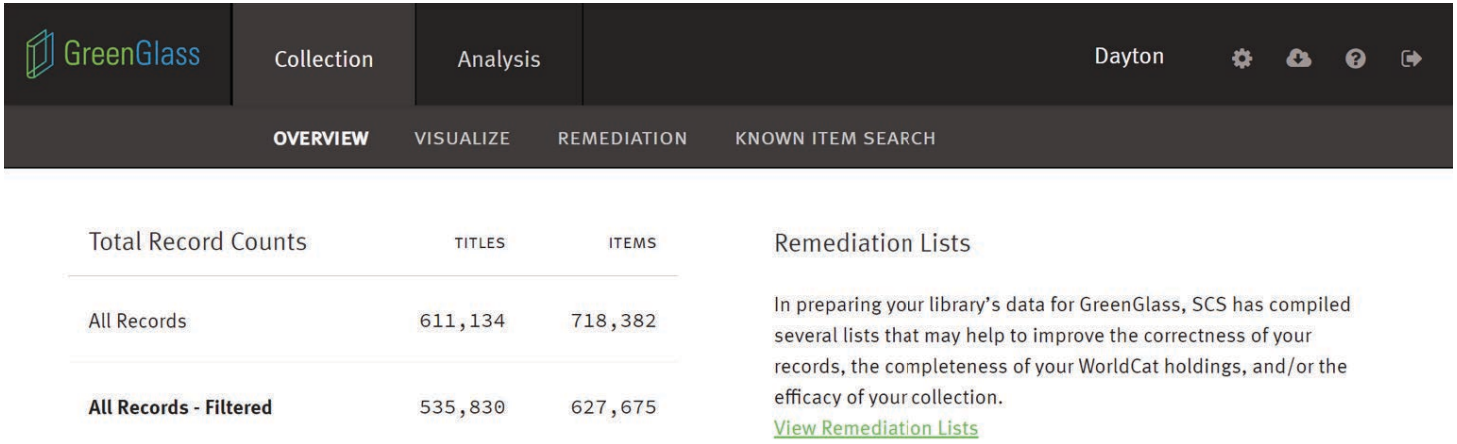
No Room for Books (@ **U. of Denver**) [Inside Higher Ed, 4/2011]

Relocation, Relocation, Relocation (@ **U.T. Austin**) [Insider Higher Ed, 2/2018]

UVa Library's Plan to Cut Stacks by Half Sparks Faculty Concerns [Chronicle, 6/2018]

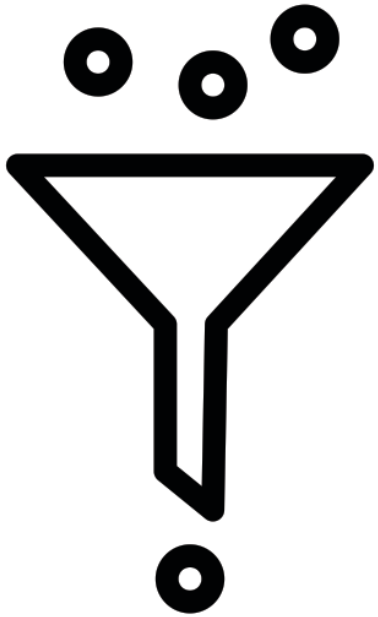
Why is the University of Dayton weeding?

Greenglass, generally



Greenglass

- See usage at copy level & across all copies.
- See circs for sets and volume.
- Compare across multiple geographic levels: national, regional, state, other (eg, Catholic)
- Choice reviews, Outstanding Titles
- Hathi trust, in or out of copyright



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The State of the Stacks, or, Why We Need to Weed

The conversations begin (Spring 2017)

Themes

- renovation needs & outcomes
- careful deselection methods
- stakeholder opportunities for input
- sustainable collections

University Libraries Committee

Provost's Council: Deans and Provost

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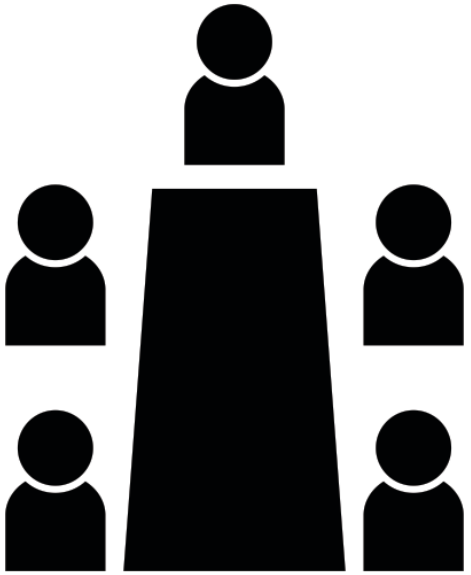
Continued campus conversations (Fall 2017)

Academic Senate presentation by the Dean of Libraries

- Most faculty understood constraints
- Interest in housing discarded titles in their dept or offices
- Some faculty wanted to pick through the discards

Library Dean met with other Deans afterwards, discussed logistical difficulties



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Working with departments (roughly Fall 2017)

Library liaisons attend faculty department meetings

- And also Associate Dean for Collections or Cataloging Director
- Consistent message via shared presentation

Humanities: library met with department chairs prior to faculty meeting

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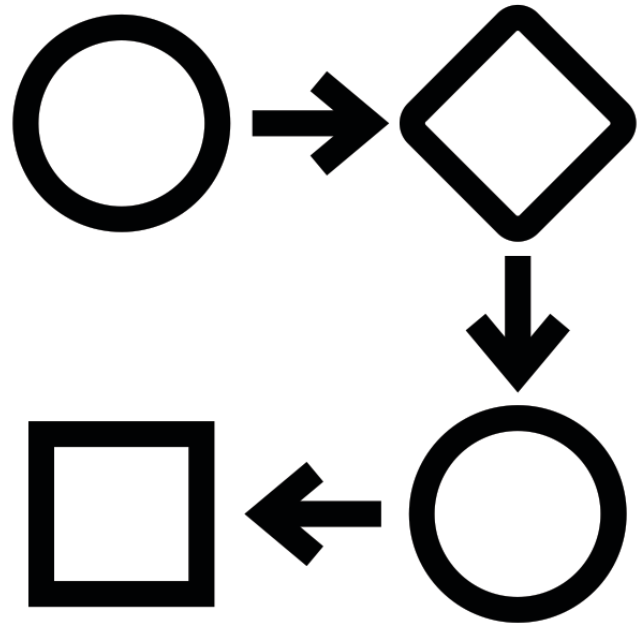
A big project for the library, workflows

Ongoing agenda item at liaison meetings

- Updates on progress
- Discuss questions raised by faculty
- Scheduling issues for dept meetings
- Creating effective Greenglass lists
- Communication items

Spring 2018: Share lists with departments

Spring/Summer 2018: Review lists



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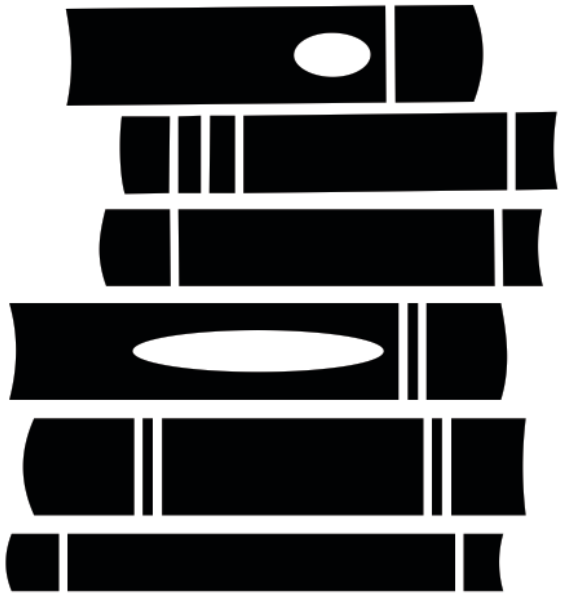
Weeding Process, part 1

Process

- Create list based on criteria
- Review #1: By librarians, delete titles as needed
- Review #2: Send to faculty for feedback
- Librarians compile new list based on faculty feedback
- Review #3: Associate Dean reviews

At every stage, a promise: if you want title, we will keep or buy that title again.



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Weeding process, part 2

- Associate Dean signs off on list
- List goes to cataloging for for out-processing
- Titles for removal are identified by barcode
- Access services employees pull titles off shelves

Materials shipped to Better World Books

- Send what meets their criteria
- Those that do not criteria get recycled

BetterWorldBooks
WWW.BETTERWORLD.COM

Weeding considerations for Humanities

- Requests to keep titles honored
- Multidisciplinary interests: some asked to see other call number areas
- More cautious in areas of faculty research
- Tighter criteria for mission-centric areas, exempted BS, BX from weeding.
- Some faculty offered to go weed the shelves themselves

Created by Gan Khoon Lay
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Examples of weeding criteria

D World History & History of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia

Locations: circulating only

Recorded Uses: < 1. Publication Year: before 2007

Edition Matching: **any** edition. OhioLINK Holdings: > 12

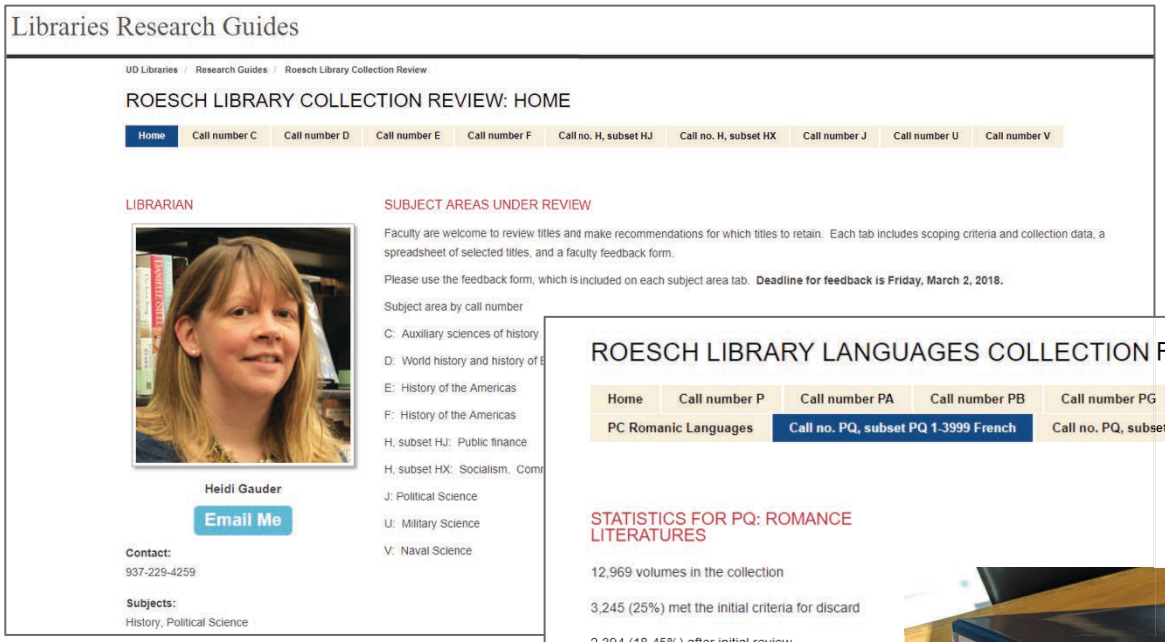
PT Germanic Literatures weeding criteria

Locations: circulating only

Recorded Uses: < 1. Added to Collection: before 2008

Edition Matching: **same** edition. OhioLINK Holdings: > 4

Communicating the Lists

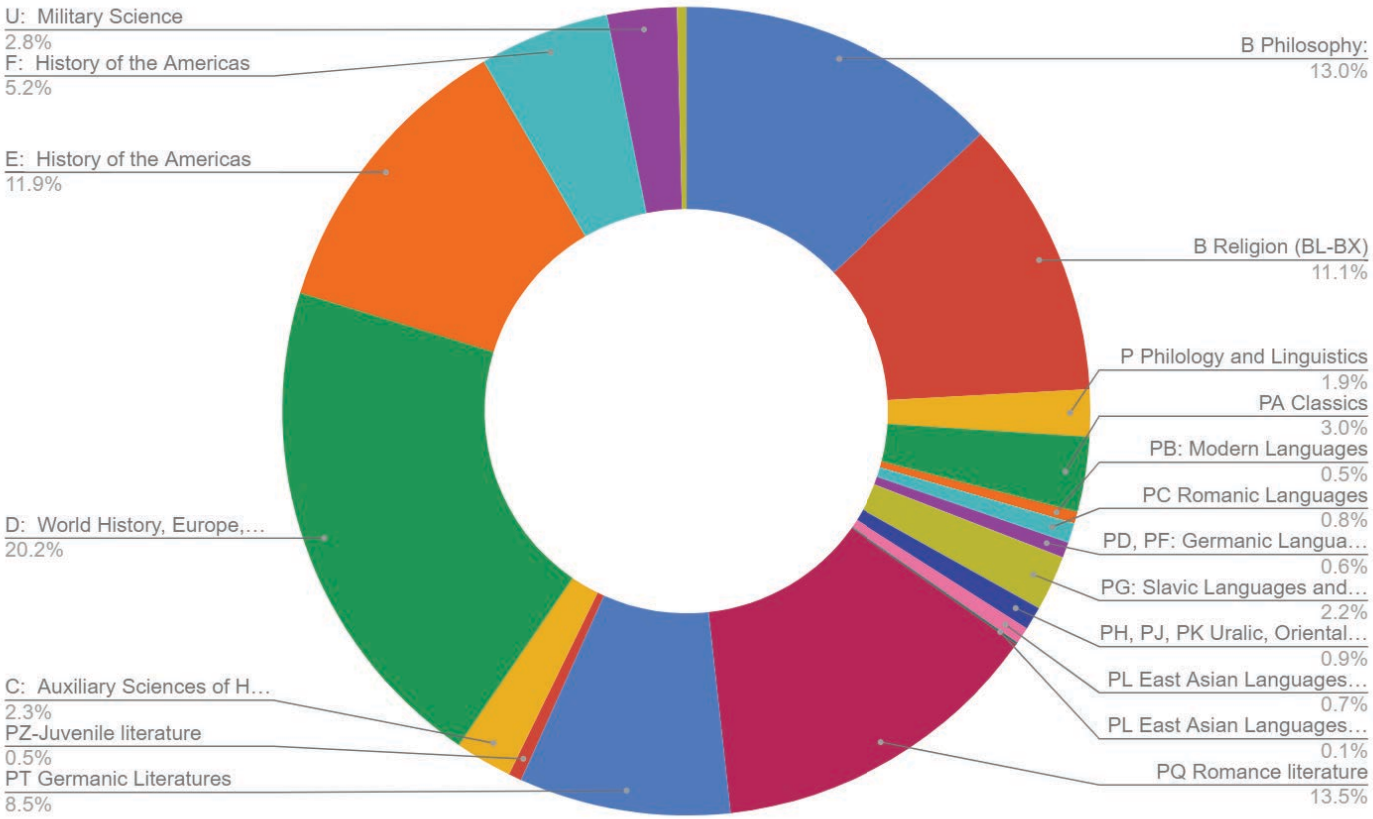


History

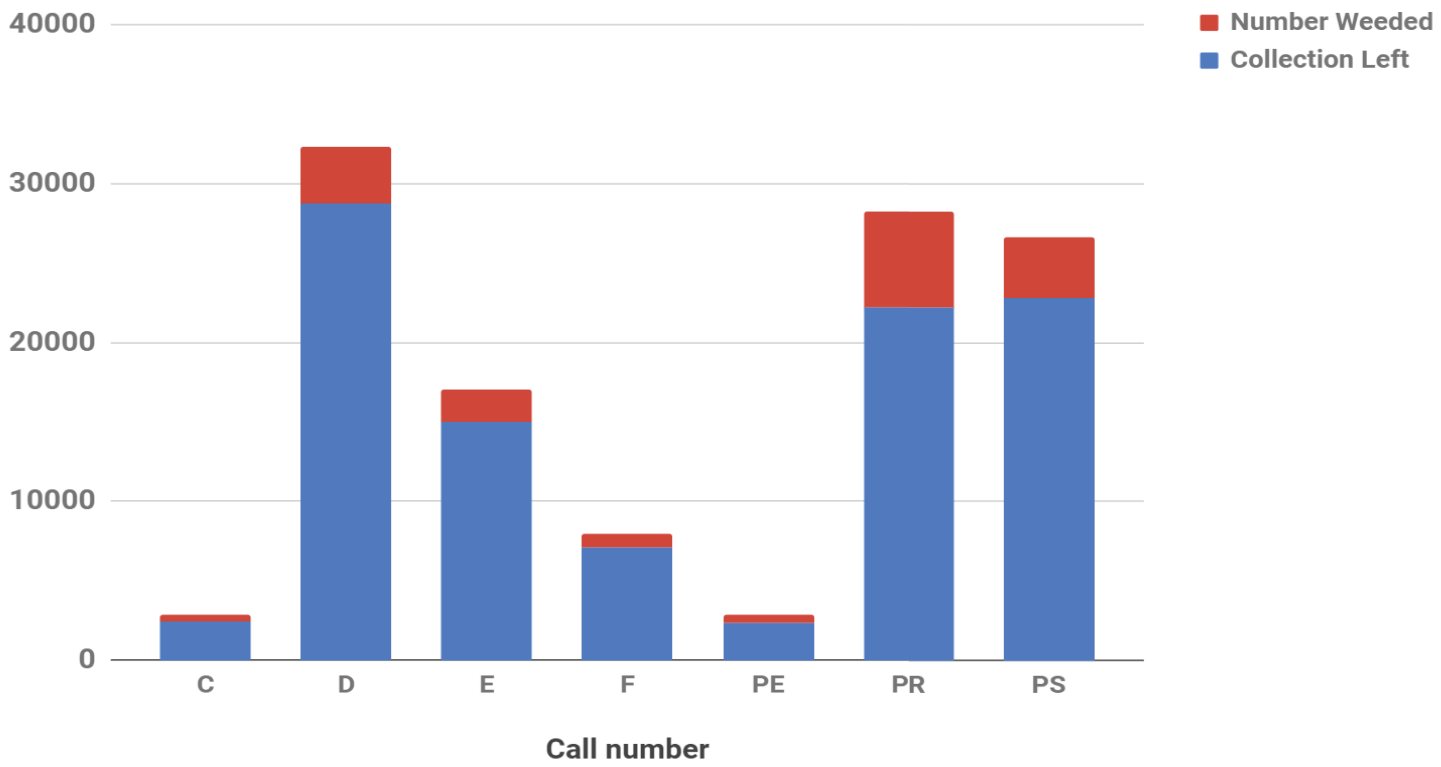
Languages

English

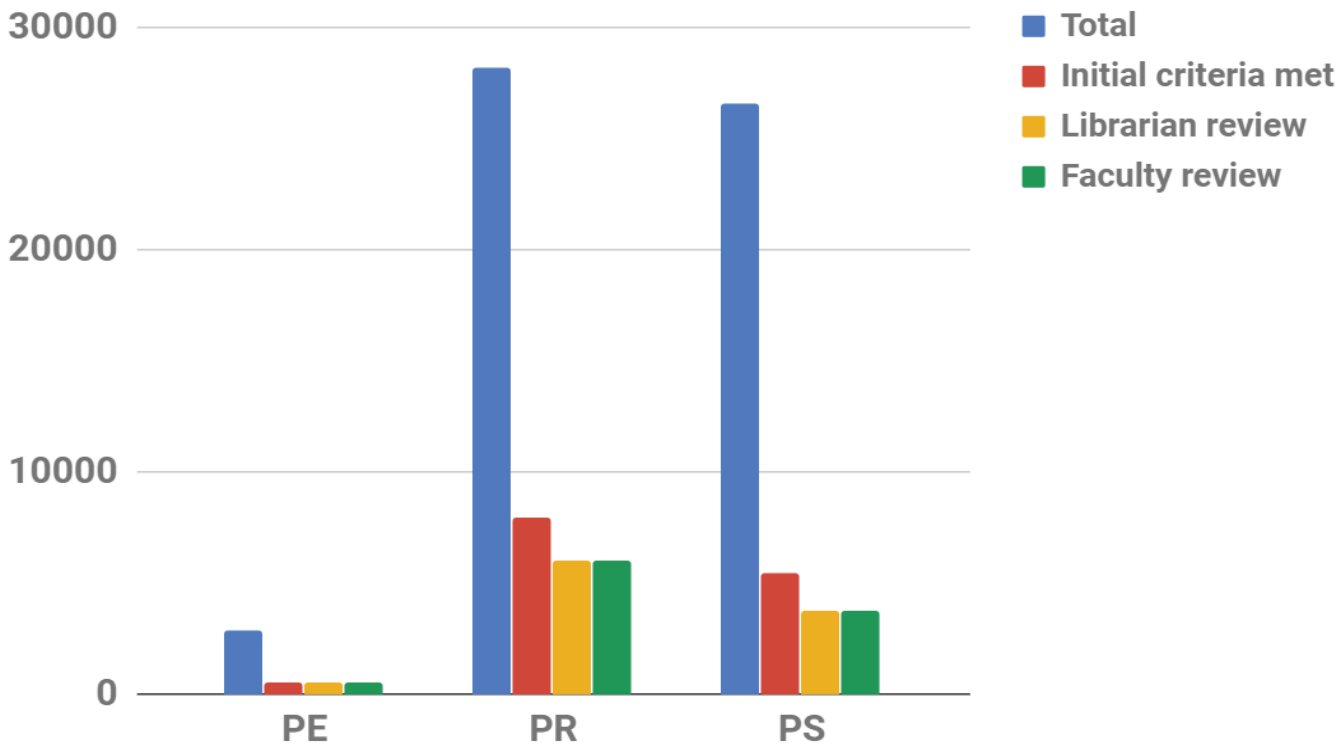
End results


U: Military Science
2.8%
F: History of the Americas
5.2%
E: History of the Americas
11.9%
D: World History, Europe,…
20.2%
C: Auxiliary Sciences of H…
2.3%
PZ-Juvenile literature
0.5%
PT Germanic Literatures
8.5%
B Philosophy:
13.0%
B Religion (BL-BX)
11.1%
P Philology and Linguistics
1.9%
PA Classics
3.0%
PB: Modern Languages
0.5%
PC Romanic Languages
0.8%
PD, PF: Germanic Langua…
0.6%
PG: Slavic Languages and…
2.2%
PH, PJ, PK Uralic, Oriental…
0.9%
PL East Asian Languages…
0.7%
PL East Asian Languages…
0.1%
PQ Romance literature
13.5%

Weeded Titles as Part of Whole

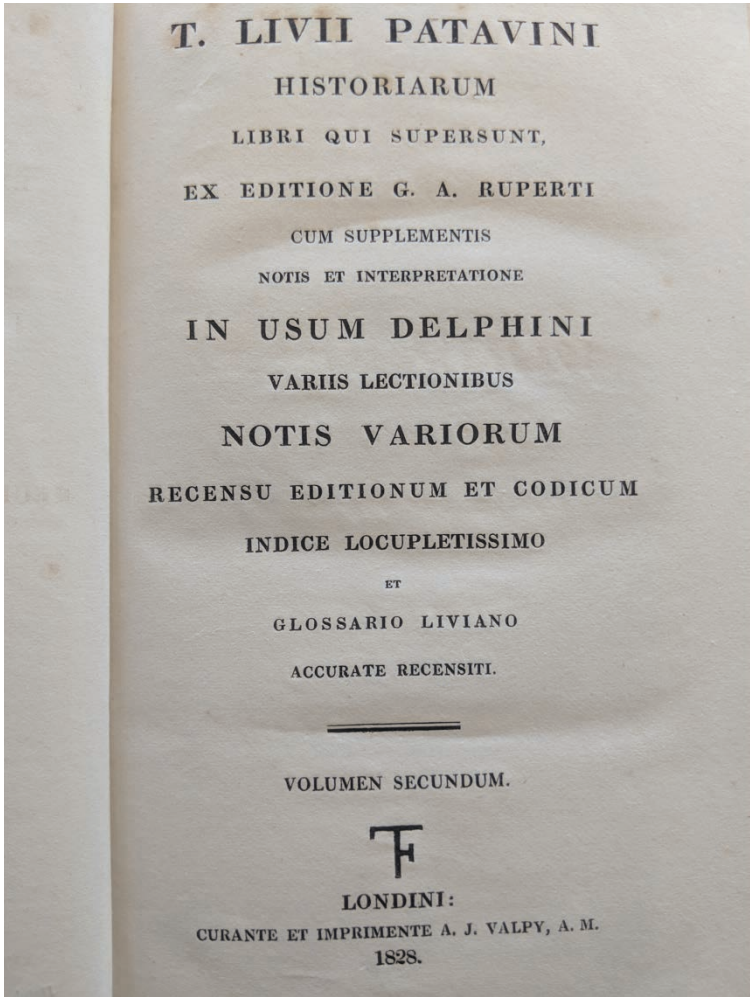


The Review Process in Numbers, Sample



Opportunities

- Found titles for rare books or special collections
- Older D & E titles that were retained much closer to literature than history: Theroux, Sherwood Anderson; Carl Sandburg
- Older faculty publications transferred to Archives



T. LIVII PATAVINI

HISTORIARUM

LIBRI QUI SUPERSUNT,

EX EDITIONE G. A. RUPERTI

CUM SUPPLEMENTIS

NOTIS ET INTERPRETATIONE

IN USUM DELPHINI

VARIIS LECTIONIBUS

NOTIS VARIORUM

RECENSU EDITIONUM ET CODICUM

INDICE LOCUPLETISSIMO

ET

GLOSSARIO LIVIANO

ACCURATE RECENSITI.

VOLUMEN SECUNDUM.

LONDINI:

CURANTE ET IMPRIMENTE A. J. VALPY, A. M.

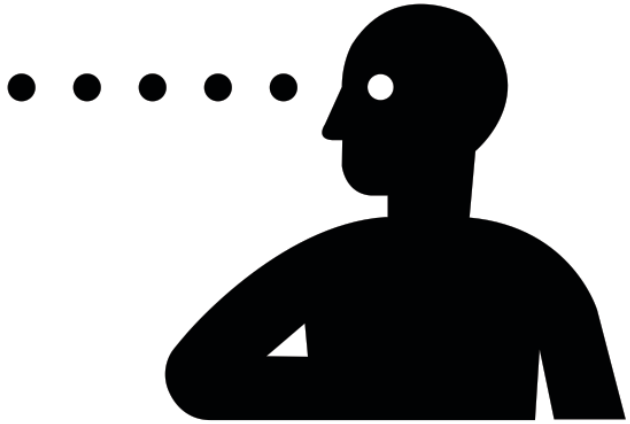
1828.

Observations on weeding

- Be prepared for meetings, even if you thought you have met with everyone. Be prepared to meet again

- Keep an eye out for government documents if federal depository

- Reprints sometimes cataloged as original, a failing in older cataloging practices



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Final Considerations

- Necessary to use quantitative criteria for initial cut.
- Date of publication alone not a good criterion of obsolescence.
- Date of last use best indicator of future use (OCLC-OhioLINK study).
- Criteria should be discipline specific (McAllister and Scherlen).
- Both librarians and faculty should review lists title by title.
- All final discard lists should have a second-level review.

Selected Bibliography

McAllister, Alex D. and Allan Scherlen. “Weeding with Wisdom:Tuning Deselection of Print Monographs in Book Reliant Disciplines” *Collection Management* 42.2 (2017): 76-91.

O’Neill, Edward T. and Julia A. Gammon. “Consortial Book Circulation Patterns: The OCLC-OhioLINK Study” *C&RL* 75.6 (Nov. 2014): 791-807.

“Weeding and Deselection Bibliography.” https://www.oclc.org/en/sustainable-collections/bibliography.html