Section by Section: Getting your weeding project off the ground

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Missouri Library Association October 2014
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Our situation

- No weeding ever done
- Many items were duplicates or outdated editions
- Student surveys stated we had nothing but old books
Why Now?

- Personal librarians to colleges
- Marketing initiatives
The Planning

• Read "CREW: A weeding manual for modern libraries", from Texas State Library
• Started a procedure manual
Guidelines

- Criterion
- Age
- Usage
- Condition
- Other...
- Not to Weed
- Local authors/history
- Faculty authors
- Southern Baptist authors/history....
Procedures

- Responsibilities for librarians
- Check books against reference
- Consult faculty
- Have a system to keep track
- Decide what to do with weeded items
Initiation

Start small
Prioritize weeding
Get faculty input
Next stages

- Plan of attack
- Get input from all parties
- Coordinate efforts
- Find ways to use volunteers and students to expand efforts (some more successful than others...)
Perceptions

*Students, faculty and staff love being able to find what they need*
Items to consider

We did encounter a few problems

- Backlog of books waiting for withdrawal
- Faculty non-responsive
- Set a limit for faculty response
- Communication issues
Take-Aways

You can start a weeding project

- Start small - break the library into sections
- Start with your most critical area
- Plan and then re-plan
- Work with whoever you can
Questions?
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