

Nurturing collaboration while weeding collections: A new interdepartmental workflow

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Background: Miami University Libraries

Public institution in Oxford, OH

~17,000 undergraduates

~2,500 graduate students

King Library (~**539,575** items)

BEST Library (~**109,750** items)

Amos Music Library (~ **51,883** items)

Art & Architecture Library (~**75,623** items)



King Library (Main location)

Summer 2020 Weeding Project

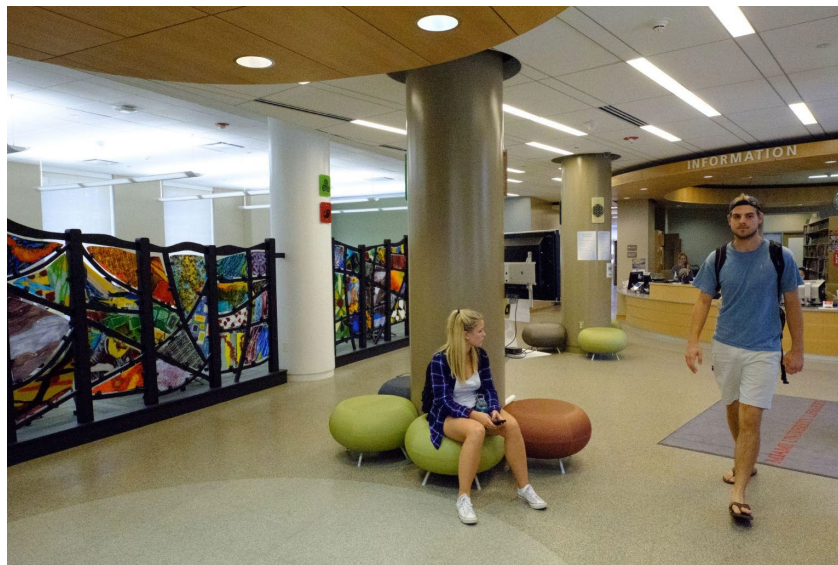
Plans to close BEST already

Spring - summer 2020 campus closed due to pandemic

Decided to simply not re-open BEST

Needed a rapid review of collections in both King and BEST to consolidate into one building

This was while many library staff were working from home



BEST Library

Weeding Practices pre-2020

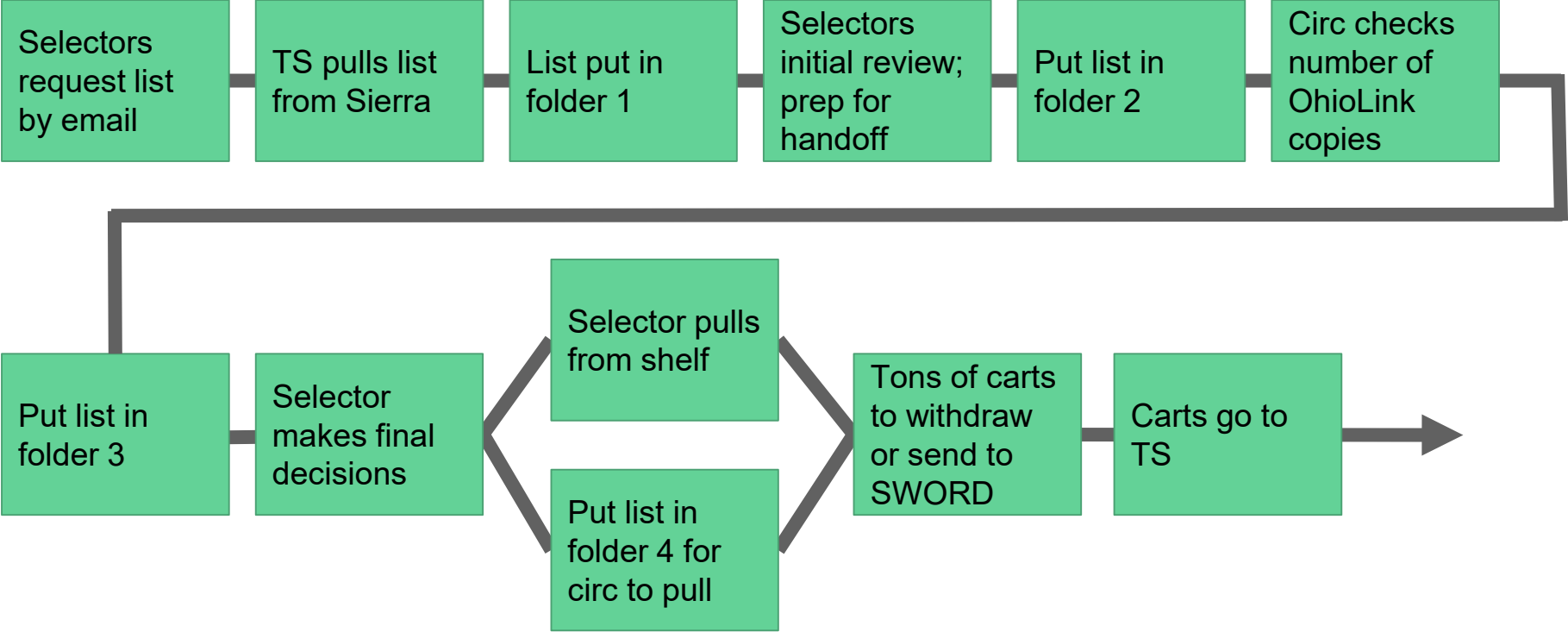
Adequate space in stacks
accommodated growth

Zero growth policy (inconsistently
practiced)

Most selectors pulled directly from
shelf



New Weeding Workflow - Utilizing GoogleDrive



Tech Services' Role

Who would take list requests

List creation

- Saved list criteria & exports

- Checking final list and fixing headings

Issues found

Selectors' Role

Assigning call number ranges to selectors

Collection groups (SOC, SCI, HUM) established weeding list parameters and fields

Group coordinators set standards for getting a list ready for circ to check after selectors completed initial list review

Selectors get lists back from circ - more processing and either go to shelves ourselves or prepare to hand back over to circulation to pull

Circulation's Role

- Checking statewide holdings
- Pulling items selected for removal
- Recording statistics for pulled items

Progress on the project

People are back on campus fully as of summer 2021

BEST is a closed stack location - collections still need to migrate to King

Selectors either done, or still working through their lists - in alphabetical order to allow shifting

Shifting in King...

13,699 withdrawn items since Dec.





New Practices to Retain

Shared GoogleDrive for list sharing rather than emailing

Collection groups agree on set weeding parameters and fields to include

Technical services utilizing the saved searches and exports, maintaining and updating as needed

Circulation staff check OhioLink for number of copies

New Practices to Discard

Online spreadsheet for requesting lists
List of ranges reviewed by selectors

Collection coordinators tried to have selectors update a Sheet when each range was complete- didn't play out for all selectors

Technical Services shared sheet of requested lists to run

Because it is manually updated

Weeding may be less frequent, which will cause inconsistent use

Thanks for listening

Questions?

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