

A Waste Management of Library Resources

V. Jesintha Banu

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Abstract

Digital Libraries have become inevitable part of the contemporary information society for storage and access of huge amount of information Digital Library inherent advantages like high volume of storage of multiform information, effective search and retrieval, accessible through multiple points at any time, instantaneous downloading faster addition of information etc. With increases of information resources CD/DVD made available in rural/remote areas of developing countries their cost and maintenance is much lesser than the paper books. Print Media transmit information via Physical objects, such as books, magazines, Newspaper and booklets, since it covers a lot of space, prefer e-books to printed items. This Paper discusses sustainable waste management and environmentally, economically, and socially responsible management of information media life-cycles in the library. It is the apt time to dispose all damaged materials to have an easy and quick way of communication. The disposed materials have a great advantage in present society by recycling it. It saves energy, water, landfill space and cost saving resource for making new paper products.

Key Words: Re-cycle, Dispose, Waste Management

Introduction

Many libraries recognize deselection as an important management tool for collection sustainability under current resource strains. How libraries then handle deselected material is an important component of the sustainable library. Many library organizations and systems consider the environment and sustainable resource management as core social responsibilities. Library and information workers are clearly concerned about the impacts of

their activities, as indicated by the writings of many in the profession, discussion about information media and the environment focuses mainly on computer, digital libraries, or paper consumption, and has not yet examined collection disposal in detail. This is problematic given: the environmental impact of new and old media disposal, the economic impact of resources and services needed for disposal methods, and social impacts related to increased environmental awareness and perceptions of responsibility.

The library profession is striving to cultivate and promote sustainability, seen as a key to its survival in a 21st century environment such a focus also reflects the changing attitudes and values of society at large(Calgary public library, n.d.; Jankowska , 2008; Moore, 2005).

Collection sustainability, as often used, is understood to relate to aspects of preservation. It is no longer possible to include everything in one collection and it is increasingly clear that infinite preservation is not possible either. Libraries, and even museums, are finding it necessary to deselect in order to continue to serve their users, operate in an economically sustainable manner, and support the sustainability of the library as a whole (Johnson, 2001;Jordan,2003; Merriman,2008;Slote,1997)

As disposal necessarily follows deselection, a practice already becoming associated with collection sustainability, this is an appropriate area to test new definition. In addition, it is closely tied to other concerns emerging in the library; the environmental impact of information media disposal (Hischer & Reichart, 2003; Levinson, 1998;Zazzau,2006)

Research of collection disposal experiences was undertaken and is explored here. Further investigation, by way of viewing collection disposal as part of a greater life-cycle is also discussed. Multi-criteria decision-making tools (MCDM) are addressed as methods to inform sustainable collection management practices in light of these various sustainability issues associated with collection disposal.

Engineering & Technology in India www.engineeringandtechnologyinindia.com

ISSN 2472-8640 1:5 December 2016

Dr. C. Swarnalatha, Ph.D. (Ed.) Entrepreneurship and Management:

Innovative Construction Techniques and Ecological Development. *Vol. 1 Management*

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Weeding (Library)

Weeding is the systematic removal of resources from a library base on selected criteria. It is the opposite of selection material, through the selection and de selection of material often involve the same thought process. Weeding is a vital process for an active collection because it ensures the collection stays current, relevant, and in good condition. Weeding should be done on a continuous, on going basis.

Reason to Weed

A “well maintained, well-pruned collection is far more useful than one filled with out of date or unused materials.” Weeding a physical collection has many benefits:

- Space is preserved to add relevant materials.
- Patrons are able to access useful material quickly, and the librarian can direct them to information more easily.
- The collection is more reputable because it is current.
- The librarian can easily see the strengths and weaknesses of the collection.
- Materials are of good quality and physical condition

With many collections having a digital component, space is not an issue for concern. However this does not mean digital collection should not be weeded.” Clearing out unused materials makes a patron’s searching experience better by reducing the number of old and irrelevant records the patrons must wade through in their search results to find what they really want”. Weeding withdrawing books from the library’s collection is one those dreaded librarian tasks. It usually sits on the back burner-other projects are often more pressing, or it’s simply being avoided. However, it’s an important task.

Weeding Criteria

Weeding should be addressed in a Library’s Collection Development Policy, and the criteria should be outlined. The following list outlines some considerations for weeding resources.

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- Poor content
 - * Content is outdated or obsolete
 - * Content is biased, racist, or sexist
 - * Content is irrelevant to patron needs
- Poor Condition
 - * Resource has irreparable damage(torn pages, broken spines)
 - * Resource is dirty or smelly
 - * Resource would not survive further circulation
- Poor Circulation
 - * Resource is not being used by patrons in a certain timeframe
- Other Considerations
 - * Multiple copies that are not needed.
 - * Enough other resources on a particular subject
 - * Should the item be replaced and the cost of replacement
 - * Visual appeal of item(including artwork)
 - * To align the collection with the university's goals, mission and curriculum.
 - * Limited space for the collection

Libraries are not Warehouses

For most academic libraries, our mission is not to collect the whole of human knowledge. We have limited space, limited resources. We are not a warehouse for books- a warehouse is a storage facility. Books are for using-not for sitting on a shelf for years on end.

Seek Input, But Use Your Expertise

Communication is key. Consult with professors in the weeding process. Outline the reasons for weeding and why the project is important for the library. Offer professors the chance to review books slated for withdrawal, but remember that the librarian should use his/her skills and tools to make a final decision.

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ISSN 2472-8640 1:5 December 2016

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The Space Race

Most academic libraries aren't seeing a brand new library building-or even a remodel-anytime soon. Space is at a premium. We investigate how students spend time in the library and use its resources. How to do students use the facility? What do they not do that they would like to do? Stacks and stacks of bound periodicals generally do not make sense anymore in the off-chance a student might browse the section.

Curriculum Counts

Particularly with smaller academic library collection, the mission is to support the courses taught at the university not necessarily a professor's own research interests. As the curriculum evolves, some programs are phased out and new programs implemented. The library collection will change based on the curriculum. It is a "growing organism" (Ranganathan's 5th law of library science)

Bad Circulation

We strive for a high-quality high use collection. Librarians look at circulation statistics(usually both check outs and in house browses) as just one criterion for deciding which books to withdraw-but it's an important one.

Print vs Electronic

In some cases, print copies may be replaced with electronic copies. Will print books be going away anytime soon? No .Opinions on Print vs electronic will vary by discipline. Seek input from faculty and students. However, electronic versions may hold an advantage for certain items: Think of digitized historical primary sources accessible to anyone from anywhere that's better scenario than one book checked out to one person.

The Mini Library Problem

Often when books are discarded, professors want them for their collections. Policies will vary from library to library on this. I've worked at libraries that struggled against historical

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ISSN 2472-8640 1:5 December 2016

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practices that lead to unofficial” mini libraries” on campus. Library staff worked hard to amalgamate library collection for the campus to provide centrally located services and easy to access.

Environmental Protection Agency

Even in this age of electronics we use a lot of paper in the united states about 70 million tons of paper and paperboard each year, according to the US Environmental protection Agency(EPA) Paper and paper products are recycled to a greater extent than any other waste product in the US, representing a 66 percent recycling rate.

Advantages of Recycling Paper

- SAVES ENERGY AND WATER
- SAVES SPACE IN LANDFILLS
- REDUCES GREENHOUSE GASES
- PRESERVING RESOURCES
- IMPROVE CREATIVE SKILLS

Saves Energy and Water

Making recycled paper pulp, compared to generating pulp from trees and other plants to make new paper products, consumes less energy and water. Recycling one ton of paper saves energy equivalent to the energy needed to power the average US home for six months and saves about 7,000 gallons of water. Making recycled paper into new paper products saves energy and water because the number of energy-intensive steps and processes that use water are reduced.

Saves Space in Landfills

Paper makes up about 28 percent of solid trash in landfills and one ton of paper takes up about 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, according to the EPA. Recycling paper and cardboard saves space in landfills for trash that cannot be recycled and saving space in landfills reduces the

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need to build more landfills. Many communities oppose the building of new landfills in their neighborhoods.

Reduces Greenhouse Gases

Recycling paper reduces methane and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. When paper decomposes anaerobically in landfill, it produces the gas methane. Methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas, together with carbon dioxide contributes to global climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and when they are cut down to make paper products, more carbon dioxide is released than absorbed. Processing wood to make paper pulp using fossil fuel based energy releases additional carbon dioxide. According to the EPA , recycling one ton of paper can reduce greenhouse gas levels by one metric ton of carbon equivalent.

Preserving Resources

Recycling paper preserves trees and forests. Every ton of recycled paper saves about 17 trees. Recycled paper serves as an environmentally friendly resource for paper manufacturers, saving costs and energy. However paper can only be recycled five to seven times before the paper fibers become too short. Material consisting of short fibers can be composted, burned for energy or used as landfill.

Improve Creative Skill

Recycling paper magazines give out a room for exhibiting the inherent ideas of a person. Here skill is employed. It is used for decoration, collage work , art and craft. However, it can be recycled in many ways.

Conclusion

Waste is a crisis of our own doing. It is becoming more and more difficult to just run faster, catch up and solve the problem. There are just too many of us, producing too much waste. Long term viable solutions require action at every level, personal, corporate and government.

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V. Jesintha Banu
Library Assistant
Anna University Regional Campus Madurai
Madurai 625 019
Tamilnadu
India
robijessylibi@gmail.com

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