



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARIES

# University Libraries' Withdrawal Project

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- Space Issues
  - Strozier Library was built in 1956 to serve 15,000 students. The University Libraries now serves over 42,000 students, including this year's freshman class, the largest in the University's history.
  - In addition to 65 years of collection growth, approximately 8,000 new print books are purchased each year, or 1,000 linear feet each year (333 shelves of books).
  - Shelving capacity is currently at an average 85% full.
  - Storage shelving capacity is 100% full.

# Project Background



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- The withdrawal project has been under discussion and review for several years. FSU Libraries have been in discussions with the Faculty Senate Library Committee about this since 2017. Between 2018 and 2019, the Faculty Senate Library Committee Patron Services & Resources Subcommittee drafted a report on the project, which was subsequently approved to move forward by the Faculty Senate Library Committee.
- However, the project was initially put on hold in 2020 due to a statewide monograph retention project and then by COVID-19 complications. The project was restarted in spring of 2021, with opportunities for discussion at the Faculty Senate Library Committee meetings in April and September of this year.

# Project Background



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- Weeding happens at every library
- Last major weeding at FSU Libraries 10 years ago
  - Materials removed without faculty input (which is common at most libraries)
- Project Goals
  - Ensure space for future growth
  - Maintain usability of the open stacks
  - Provide access to the most relevant print materials
  - Obtain faculty input on what is retained or weeded

- Our academic librarians used a collection analysis tool to create a pool of titles to *consider* for withdrawal.
- A book must match **all 6** of the criteria to be included on the list
  - Items that were added to the collection before 2010
  - Items that were published before 2010
  - Items that have not circulated since 2010
  - Items with more than 50 US holdings (available through Interlibrary Loan)
  - Items with at least two retention commitments in Florida (available through UBorrow)
  - Items that have at least one other retention commitment in EAST (available through Interlibrary Loan)
- Algorithms are not perfect, and they do not take into account the uniqueness of particular works or subject areas, which is why faculty help needed.

- Collections studies show that on average, across the disciplines, that after 3 years of publication the use of a book declines rapidly and that 20% of books account for 80% of all use.
- Librarians set the criteria at 10 years to give time for those patterns to emerge.
  - They understand that this is an average across the disciplines and the rule does not always apply.
  - They understand that usage alone is not a clear indicator of the relevancy of a book.
- The criteria are a way to narrow the pool of items to review, and they need your input.

- The criteria includes multiple holdings in Florida, in the EAST consortium, and in the U.S. so that all items are easily accessible through UBorrow and through ILL.
- The holdings in Florida and EAST are *committed*.
- This allows us to assess which items in our collection needs to be *immediately* accessible and which ones can we get through a guaranteed library partner within a few days.

- The titles on this list comprise less than 6% of FSU's total circulating monograph collection of 1,498,670 items.
- Ten percent of the titles on the list have never circulated.
- Another 30% have been checked out only once in their lifetime at the library.
- Over 30% of the list has had no use since 2000 and over 60% has had no use in the last 15 years.
- Items that are used in-house and reshelfed by library staff are included in this usage data.



- Subject librarians will continue to work closely with University departments and faculty to ensure a thorough review of all books selected for withdrawal, to determine which titles you would like retained or transferred to your academic department.
- They understand that each discipline has unique needs, so need your feedback and input. If you identify titles that are critical to your research and teaching, items that you need immediate access to, then they WANT to keep those!
- The deadline for review is June 1, 2022.

- The Library only discards a book that is irreparably damaged and that cannot be given away.
- The library is working on a process to mark files that you request be retained so they won't appear again on a future weeding list.
- Weeding always happens in libraries, but to accommodate FSU's growth we need to rally for a new library!

# Shared Print Management



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- It is not realistic nor sustainable for academic libraries to collect everything. For the last 15 years, research libraries worldwide have been moving to a distributive model of shared print management.
- Print retention and access as a shared responsibility.
- In a distributed model, libraries within a consortium make retention commitments on select titles while allowing partner libraries to withdraw their duplicate copies and depend on interlibrary loan for access.

# Shared Print Management



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- Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (EAST) currently consists of 82 academic and research libraries and is growing every year.
- Current retention commitments on 9.7 million scholarly monographs and growing.
- Retention commitments are for 15 years after which the consortium will reassess holdings with the goal of *increasing* commitments.
- If a library needs to back out of a commitment, then others will pick it up.
- FSU has committed to retain 315,286 monographs with goals to increase.

# Shared Print Management



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- EAST is an active partner with other collaborative print archiving programs: the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance and the Partnership for Shared Book Collections.
- FSU Libraries is part of a national initiative to archive print journals and academic monographs and to responsibly and cooperatively manage our research collections.
- Some members include:
  - Big Ten Academic Alliance
  - University of California Libraries
  - Florida Academic Libraries Repository
  - Western Regional Storage Trust
  - Washington Research Library Consortium
  - Association of Southeastern Research Libraries
  - Center for Research Libraries
  - Virginia's Academic Library Consortium
  - Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries
  - Minnesota Cooperative Collection Management Program
  - Academic Libraries of Indiana

# Instructions for providing feedback



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1. The deadline for review is June 1, 2022.
2. Review the **title lists** that are of interest to you.
3. Make a copy of the spreadsheet(s).
4. Highlight the titles that you wish to be transferred to your department or to be retained in the library collection.
5. Email the spreadsheet(s) to **[lib-east@fsu.edu](mailto:lib-east@fsu.edu)** with a written request to either transfer ownership to your department or to retain the items in the collection.
6. Contact your subject librarians and Faculty Senate Library Committee representatives if you have questions.

The background of the image is a large, faint, circular seal of Florida State University. The seal features a central torch with three flames, flanked by two palm trees. The words "FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY" are written in a circular path around the top, and "1851" is at the bottom. A banner across the middle of the seal contains the Latin motto "VIRENTES AETATE MAIORES".

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