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Making Room for Change: Rightsizing the PSU Library Serials Collection

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**Pittsburg State
University**

**Presented at CULS 2017, Lawrence KS
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<https://tinyurl.com/lrse74q>

Introduction

- **Print Journal Collection Development a Traditional Role**
- **Trend of Transitioning From Print Journals to Online Journals**
- **Trend Towards Student Centered Libraries**
- **Flat or Decreasing Budgets**
- **Space Concerns**

PSU's Challenge and Goal

- **Balancing Our Print & Electronic Serials Collections**
- **Creating a Meaningful Discovery Experience**
- **Creating a Student Centered Library**
- **Future Goals:**
 - **PSU Curriculum & Research Focused Serials Collection**
 - **Relevant Services & Resources**

The Big Weed

- **Serials Collection Not Weeded For Years**
- **In 2016, We Had To Reduce the Footprint of the Serials Collection by 50% - “rapid response scenario” (Ward, S.)**
- **This Presentation is About the Realizations I Had Later**

What is Rightsizing?

- **“This book suggests the term rightsizing to describe the overarching plan for shaping a library’s physical collection into one that meets its users’ needs.” (Ward, S.)**
- **“Rightsizing implies that librarians have developed the correct approach for shaping their libraries into the optimal size to serve . . . constituents, not only with the right mix of material, . . . but also with the right . . . services to obtain needed information quickly and efficiently if it is not available on-site” (Ward, S.)**

How is Rightsizing Different From Weeding?

- Rightsizing Can Be Applied to Any Collection, Library Type, or Service**
- While Librarians Do Weed Their Collections, They May Not Do So Strategically or Enough**

New Strategies & Workflows for Rightsizing

- **Regularly Weeding Nursing Journals Older Than 10 Years**
- **Any Scholarly Titles Not Relevant to Current Curriculum & Research Needs**
- **Use a Retention List For Weeding Limited Retention Titles**
- **Online Only Subscriptions for Some Journals**

New Strategies & Workflows for Rightsizing

- **Weeding of all Holdings Duplicating JSTOR & Sage**
- **Checklists For Weeding Processes**
- **Discard Materials We Cannot Use With Our Technology**
- **Rethinking Binding**
- **Weeding Duplicate Journal Volumes**
- **Rightsizing of Open Access Journals**

Rightsizing Open Access Journals

- **Why Rightsize Open Access Journals?**
- **Decrease Confusion of Patrons Who Are Overwhelmed With Multitude of Links**
- **Improve Services by Providing Reliable Access to Needed Resources**

Rightsizing Open Access Journals

Results in Physics	Elsevier	2211-3797		66
Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing	Elsevier	0884-2175	1552-6909	63
Applied Nursing Research	Elsevier	0897-1897		56
Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences	Elsevier	1877-0428		43
Chest	Elsevier	0012-3692	1931-3543	41
Historia Mathematica	Elsevier	0315-0860	1090-249X	32
Procedia Engineering	Elsevier	1877-7058		29
Nursing for Women's Health	Elsevier	1751-4851	1751-486X	27
Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry	Elsevier	1044-0305	1879-1123	25
Current Biology	Elsevier	0960-9822		21
Materials Today	Elsevier	1369-7021	1873-4103	21
Polymer	Elsevier	0032-3861		20
Cell Reports	Elsevier	2211-1247		19

Titles Highlighted in Yellow Are Subscriptions.

Handling Oppositions to Rightsizing

- **Objections From Faculty, Staff, Students, Librarians**
- **“[L]ibraries are moving from a ‘just in case’ model to a ‘just in time’ model. Keeping materials that MIGHT be essential can no longer be considered essential.” (Crumpton, M. & M. Krautter)**
- **Is Online Access Up to Par? Images? Access? Maintenance Charges?**
- **What if a Needed Title is Weeded?**

Why Should I Rightsize My Library?

- **Why not?**
 - **Save Money Not Doing Things You Cannot Afford**
 - **Improve Service to Patrons by Providing Needed Services & Resources**
 - **Repurpose Space by Rightsizing Your Collection**
 - **Discard Materials in Poor Condition, Outdated, & Useless**

Factors to Consider in Rightsizing

- **Time Frame**
- **Plan**
- **Project Manager**
- **Personnel**
- **Supplies**
- **Equipment**
- **Tools**

Results...So Far

- **A More PSU Curriculum/Research Focused Serials Collection**
- **Space To Be Re-Purposed For Other Uses**
- **A Renewed Sense of Purpose as a Periodicals Librarian**
- **Confidence that Rightsizing is the Right Thing to do**
 - **Specific Game Plan Based on Data and Input**

List of Sources

- **Evangeliste, M., & Furlong, K. (2014).** *Letting go of legacy services : Library case studies*. Chicago: ALA Editions, An imprint of the American Library Association.
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