

Collaborative Review of Government Documents: Working with Subject Specialist Librarians to Weed a Government Documents Collections

The Assignment

- First comprehensive weeding of Miami University Government Documents collection in 100 years
- 200,000+ item collection
- Reduce the physical footprint of the collection
- Complete the project over the course of summer break

The Plan

- Have subject specialist librarians select items for weeding
- “The purpose of having several librarians work on this project is to bring varied subject expertise and experience to the collection and to complete the project in a timely manner.”

Issues

- Scheduling
- Librarians are not familiar with the Superintendent of Documents Classification System

Solutions

- Flexible scheduling and periodic reminders
- Establish a clear outline of project as well as clear goals
- Meet with librarians to introduce them to the collection
- Create a list of general equivalencies between the SuDoc system and Library of Congress system / subject areas

Examples

- **Defense** – History Librarian
- **State Department** – History & International Studies Librarians
- **Education Department** – Education Librarian

Results

- 44,000+ items selected for removal
- Selection phase of project completed on time



Feedback

- Increased subject librarians' understanding of Government Documents and Government Documents collection

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