

Everyone loves the library (building) – Now weed your gov docs

In 2022, we began preparing to reduce the ~ 250,000-item government documents collection by up to 90%.

- The Learning Commons was going to move into the library in 2023, and we were told to make room.
- Campus administration agreed to provide funding for two project catalogers for a two-year period and the use of empty offsite storage space.

To make some space right away, we boxed up large multi-volume sets that are digitized, e.g. the bound Congressional Record (pictured below), and we moved them into storage.



We continued to focus our initial efforts on items available digitally, but eventually accepted that we would have to weed items with no digital equivalent.

We talked to our Regional about the project and its aggressive timeline. They agreed to let us exceed their standard 250 item limit for offers, and we are currently offering 1,000 items at a time on FDLP eXchange. We have offered about 10,000 items so far and have about 20,000 items on lists ready to be offered.



Knowing the project will take many years, the project catalogers are creating lists of items that we can upload to FDLP eXchange in the future. Each cataloger adds approximately 250 items to a list each week.

Undergoing a large weeding project? Some tips:

1. Record the steps, time, and people required to weed one item using FDLP eXchange and to update your holdings.
2. Developing a successful workflow will take time. It took us a few months to figure it all out.
3. Like us, you may have to repeatedly communicate FDLP rules and requirements to your stakeholders and colleagues.
4. Try to find stack space where documents can be arranged however you need them and accessed when other libraries request them. We arrange ours by a list number we assign. The picture to the left show documents ready to be offered. These stacks are in an area accessible to the public with a sign that says to please ask before removing. (So far, so good!)



5. Celebrate your successes! The picture above shows our first offer being recycled by (most of) the people working on the project.

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