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Markus Library Newsletter, June 2006

Library Staff

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Notes in the margin...

Answers to your questions...

I.D. card Book check-out/renewal

Olga Nilova x8904

Getting an article or book not in the library

Angela Matthews x8916

Locating information

Beverly Gordon x8915

Need an article photocopied

Alisa Jackson x8957

Ordering a book, subscription or membership

Wilma Jacobs-Dowden x8944

Customized information services in your lab

Holly Miller x8905

E-journal access

Paula Desko x8911

Other questions...

Carol Feltes x8909

New Resource ALERT

CSH Protocols
A new, online methods journal in molecular and cell biology.

Library
Newsblog Post



The Book Collection: Focus on Quality

In January, the RU Library began to systematically evaluate the book collection. The library's book collection contains over 52,000 titles, held on three floors in Welch Hall. After preliminary examination of the collection, a 25% reduction appears to be a realistic goal. Removing materials from library collections is as necessary and logical as adding new items. It is one part of a comprehensive "Collection Management Plan" which advances the library's primary goal of meeting the needs of the RU, focusing on research and graduate education. We plan to present this process to a Library Advisory Committee in the fall.

Why is the library reducing the book collections at this time?

- **It's time** - it has been over 10 years since this issue has been addressed and it should be a continuous process.
- **Space** - since we add new materials each year outdated items must be removed to make space on the shelves.
- **Scope** - over recent decades the areas of research interest, and indeed the directions of science itself, have changed.
- **The future** - new formats, mostly electronic, are the preferred forms of information. The role of the library as a physical place, and as information provider, is changing.

Therefore, a team of librarians is evaluating the collection subject area by subject area. Each book is evaluated, looking at circulation activity, subject scope, relevance to university research, historical significance, and physical condition. Team members corroborate each other's decisions. Books selected for removal that have continuing value to others are sold to a book dealer; this supports the library's future book purchases.

Areas we have already examined include philosophy, psychology, history, literature, art, technology, reference, and library science and we continue to work in peripheral subject areas. When examining the major research areas, we plan to use these criteria and to be as conservative as possible, executing this project in a careful, systematic manner to ensure that the books removed will not be missed. In the end, the collection will be more current, accessible and useful to you. Current statistics show the most active part of the collection (figure on right). For more information, or to share your thoughts or comments, please contact Carol Feltes, the University Librarian.

Criteria for Evaluating Books

Remove	Keep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicate copies • Out of scope • Outdated • Databases available electronically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All works of RU authorship • Works related to RU • Graduate level texts in scope • In scope scientific works • Supportive peripheral works (ethics, integrative science)

