R2 Consulting invites you to become an early-stage customer of their new deselection service, Sustainable Collection Services (SCS). We are looking for a limited number of libraries who are looking to do deselection work in the coming year and who would be interested in working with us to use and refine our SCS tool.

**SCS Features**
- Normalizes library catalog data, and identifies low/no-circulation titles
- Connects library holdings to WorldCat holdings, regional storage holdings, and information about digital surrogates
- Compares library holdings to authoritative title lists
- Enables library-defined title protection rules
- Produces lists of rare titles that can be considered for digitization or archiving
- Produces lists of low-risk titles for deselection that can be modified iteratively

**SCS Benefits**
- Enables rational and responsible drawdown of low-use print monographs
- Reduces the cost of deselection projects
- Reduces lifecycle costs of managing print collections
- Ties local collection development decisions to national preservation efforts
- Supports local collection priorities and risk tolerance
- Helps reclaim library space for users

**About R2**
Since 2000, R2 has become the premier consultancy to academic libraries for workflow analysis, organizational redesign, and strategic planning. R2 projects include all areas of the library, but with particular focus on Collections and Technical Services operations. A major theme in R2’s 100+ projects to date is assisting libraries in the transition from print to electronic as the dominant format. Contact: [http://r2consulting.org](http://r2consulting.org)

*Helping libraries build sustainable high-use print collections in the context of the collective collection.*
Why Now? The Case for Moving Forward with Deselection

At a time when print use is declining, there is a clear opportunity to free space and resources by carefully and intelligently drawing down print monograph collections. The availability of data and services to support rules-based deselection now makes it easier to pursue this opportunity safely and cost-effectively.

The print collection that isn’t used: It’s growing

- The University of Pittsburgh study (Kent, 1979): 40% of volumes never circulated. If a book did not circulate within the first 6 years of ownership, its chances of ever being borrowed were reduced to 1 in 50.
- R2 circulation survey (2009): 56% of volumes never circulated
- Circulation in academic libraries dropped 27% between 2002 and 2008
- Initial circulations per student dropped 60% from 1997 to 2007

More books have been digitized

- Hathi Trust: 4.3 million book titles
- Google Book Search: 15 Million+
- Internet Archive: 1.5 million
- Europeana: 2 million

“Library after library has sacrificed reader accommodations to the imperatives of shelving. The crowding out of readers by reading material is one of the most common and disturbing ironies in library space planning.”

Scott Bennett
Libraries Designed for Learning.

The cost of keeping a book is significant

A June 2010 CLIR report concludes that a library bears an annual cost of:

- $4.26 for each volume held in open stacks
- $0.86 for each volume held in high-density storage

In a modest-sized academic library (say, 200K volumes), it is possible, even likely, that 50% of the collection—100,000 books—have not circulated within the past ten years. In open stacks, this equals $426K per year with no benefit to users; in high-density storage, $88K.

Many copies can be removed safely

A quarter of all titles in OCLC’s WorldCat database are held by more than 100 libraries.

Further Reading

Sample and Hold: Rick Lugg’s Blog - http://sampleandhold-r2.blogspot.com/

R2 Publications - http://r2consulting.org/pages/Publications.php
• Doing What’s Obvious: Library Space and the Fat Smoker. Against the Grain 21 (1). 2009.

Other Publications

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