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Reference Weeding: Ideas and Challenges

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Rachel Wightman, Normandale Community College

Why? - MSU, Mankato





Why? - Normandale

- Approx. 10,000 volumes (4500 titles)
- Weeded in sections
- Under-utilized
- Space



How? - MSU, Mankato

- Teams +/-
- Stopped using forms
- I/A weeding project (Good)
- Pre-1970s (Meh...)
- Stickers (Epic Fail)
- Online dupes (In process)
- Moving to Gen or storage = extra wrinkle

How? - Normandale

- Weekly schedule - weeding & review
- All librarians
- Browse stats
- Forms
- Weed or move
- Large sets
- Updating



Challenges/Lessons - MSU, Mankato

- Getting buy in
 - Priority status
 - Desk culture
 - Crowded GEN
 - Multiple teams
- Be a leader!
 - timelines
 - expectations
 - point people



Challenges/Lessons - Normandale

- Aggressive timeline
- Finding time
- Involvement
- First pass only
- Reference questions
- Collection development

Your turn

- What challenges have you found when weeding at your institution?
- What has gone well?
- Have you had failed projects you would be willing to share?

Your turn

- Do you weed systematically? If so, how often?
- If you haven't weeded, what are you most looking forward to? Or, what is most scary?
- Other ideas?