

Who's afraid of the “W” word?

Tackling a weeding project

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Library context



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/serdarkaya/16390572927>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dugspr/4920933628/>

Establishing the need

- Space constraints: limited room for new physical acquisitions
- High quality materials were hidden and harder to find
- Had physical duplicates, as well as materials already available electronically
- Feedback from library staff working in off-site storage

Establishing the need

Need was stronger in some collections areas, but decided to make it a library-wide project.

Tip: You can start small!

Time-sensitive opportunity

Collaborative Futures (OCUL): move from Millennium to Alma

- Opportunity to tidy records and collections
- Alma go-live date imposed a deadline for extracting historical circ data from Millennium

Time-sensitive opportunity

- Spring 2016 - Weeding policy was approved
- Fall 2018 / Winter 2019 - Collections responsibilities shift from subject specialists to the Collections Strategy department, due to Library reorganization

Communication



Project plan

Internal - librarians
and library staff

Intranet

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pshanks/411196422/>

Communication



External - students
and faculty

Emails

Faculty councils

Website

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pshanks/411196422/>

Defining deselection criteria

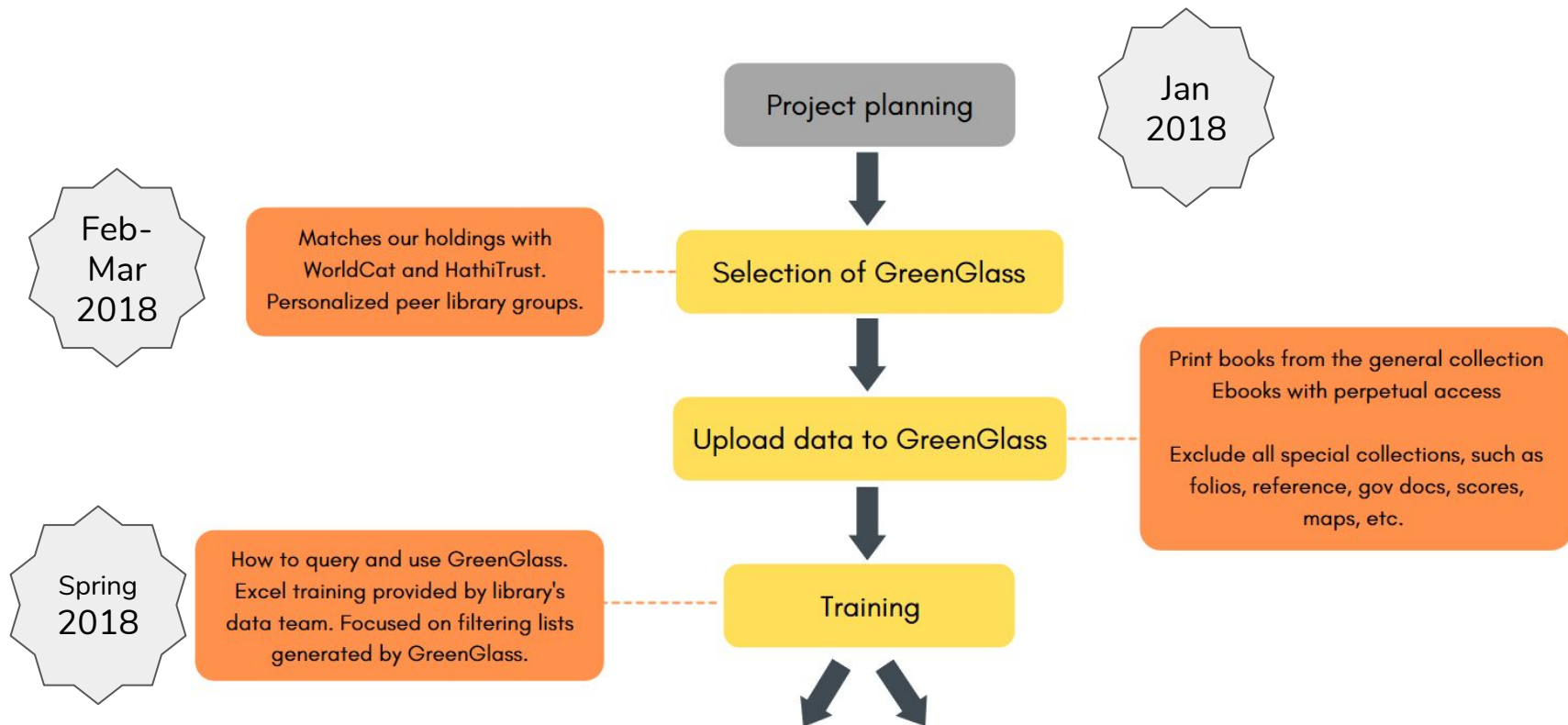
Global set of initial parameters:

Zero use


Duplicates

- For the zero use items, librarians were encouraged to apply additional criteria based on their knowledge of research needs
- **For more about this and how we used GreenGlass, see our poster!**

Project flowchart




Summer
2018


Criteria
Library has more than one identical copy
No circulations in last 5 years

Duplicates

Eliminate false duplicates in Excel:
- Multiple copies vs multiple volumes
- Multiple copies with different call numbers

Weeding list

 **We are here**

Pulling books

Eliminate false duplicates with the book in hand:
- Multiple copies vs multiple volumes
- Multiple copies with different call numbers

Spring
2019

Project evaluation




Criteria
Located in off-site storage
No circ activity since 1985
Published between 1900-2000
No local authors or themes
At least 3 copies within Ontario

Zero use

Subject specialist's discretion based on knowledge of current research needs.

Application of additional criteria

List of books considered for weeding circulated to departmental reps as Excel spreadsheet. Feedback requested.

Faculty consultation

 **We are here**

Consolidation of lists

Lists received back from faculty members combined into single pull list for off-site storage staff.

Pulling books

Fall
2018

Winter
2018

Spring
2019

Where we are now

- Test project
- Removing duplicate items
- Consolidating faculty feedback (postponed until Alma is implemented) to create pick list

Lessons learned



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gridview/8988854873>

What's next?

- Examine multiple editions
- Duplication with ebooks
- Moving more items to off-site storage
- Integrating weeding into every day practice

What's next?

- Reflection and project evaluation
- Raising awareness of just in case vs. just in time
- Direct borrowing via OCUL's Collaborative Futures

Questions?

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