

Weeding a Selective Depository Library

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What is Weeding

Library weeding involves selecting materials to be withdrawn so that a high-quality collection is maintained while providing space for new materials or other priorities.

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Why Weed?

- Update the collection
- · Online editions supersede tangible copies
- Free up shelf space
- Save money not housing or preserving unnecessary materials

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Rules to Follow

- FDLP rules
 - http://www.fdlp.gov/requirements-guidance/legal-requirements
- State rules Texas State Plan http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/fedinfo/statepl an.html
- FDLP Best Practices

http://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository/collection-management/2532-best-practices-when-superseding-and-substituting

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Recommendations

Before you start

- What information are patrons using in your collection
 - ➤ Work the reference desk
 - Circulation statistics
- Develop a collection development plan
 - State parameters and criteria clearly
 - Provide background information on decisions
 - Statement for patrons who might be affected
- Follow disposal rules at Federal and State levels and create step-by-step procedures for staff
 - Consider staff time and space to house weeded materials
- Notify managers and staff that will be affected
 - Postage? Boxes for shipping?

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Recommendations

Notify patrons

Information online now

Notify Staff

- Time to withdraw from catalog
- Space to hold items for several weeks
- Staff to type up lists (good student worker job)

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First Steps

- Parameters Developed
 - What to keep
 - Statistics
 - · University curriculum strengths
 - Primary Resources
 - · Documents for historic use
 - Consider General Public users (if an academic or special library)

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What to Weed

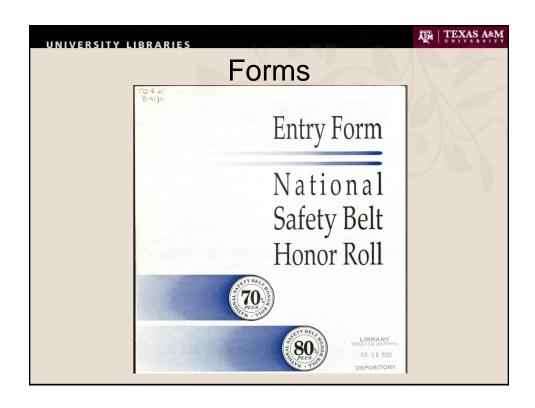
- · Revised editions
- · Time sensitive materials that expired
 - Calendars, Applications, Order forms
 - Consumer information
- Ephemeral materials
 - Bookmarks
- Manuals
 - Old computer and software manuals
 - Some manuals were for internal use in agency

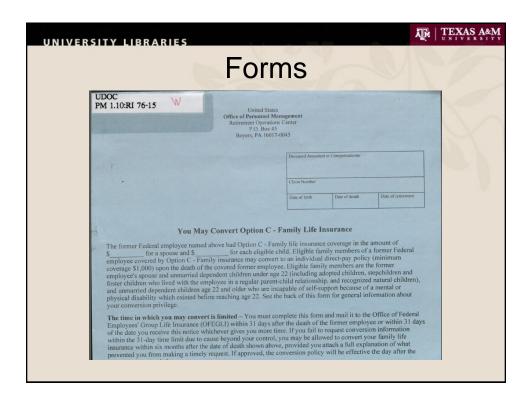
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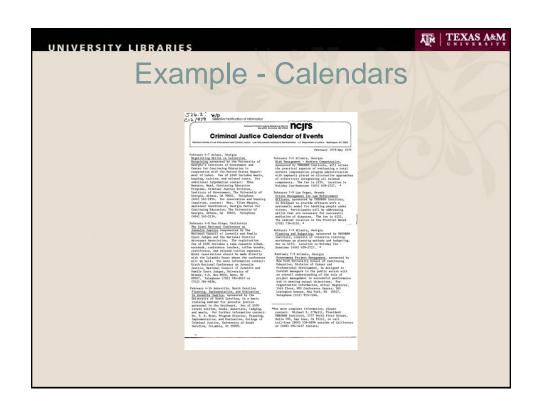
What to Weed

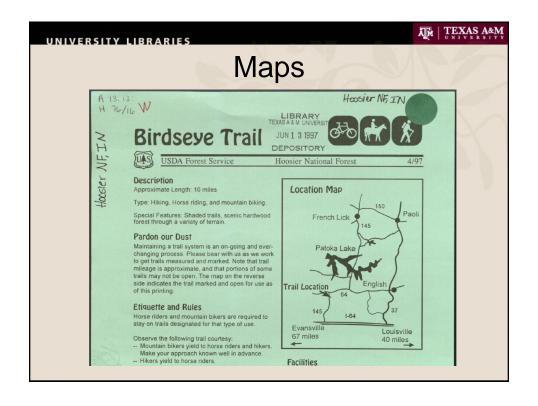
- Duplicates
 - Many documents are duplicated in the Serial Set
 - · One shots of main reports
- Old/incomplete legal materials
- Article Reprints
 - · HHS have a lot of these

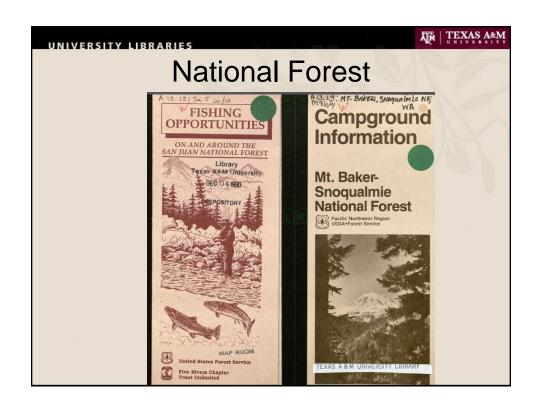


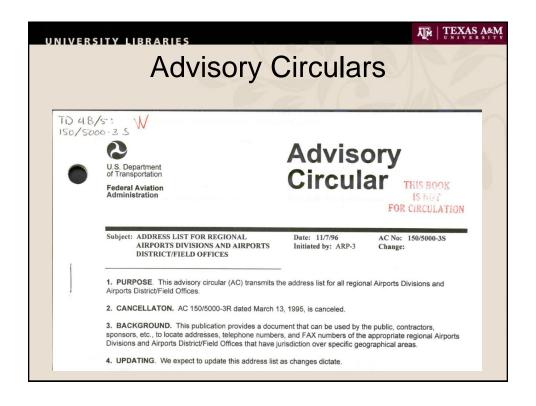


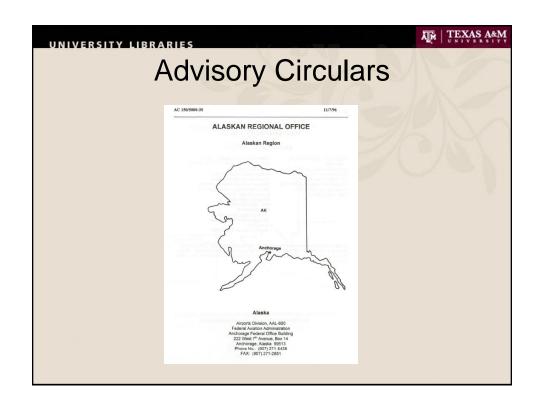


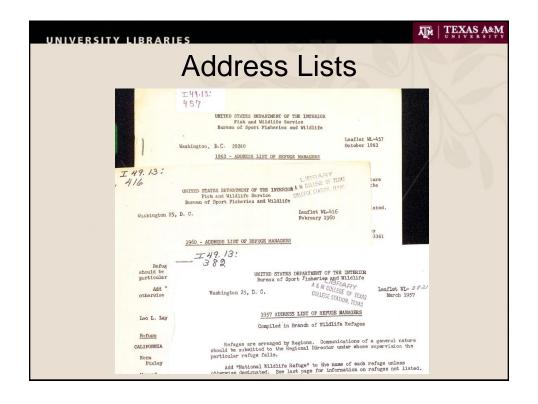


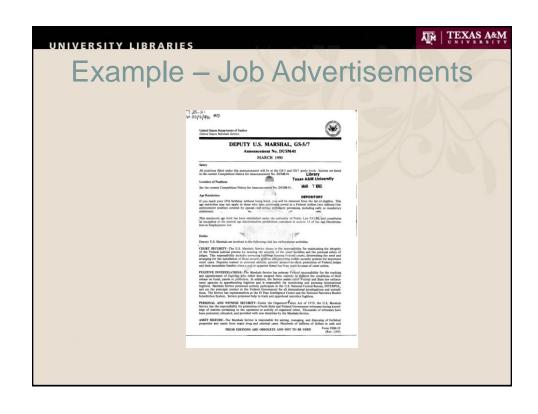




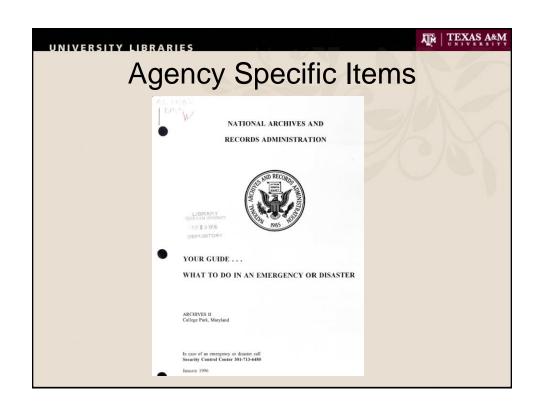




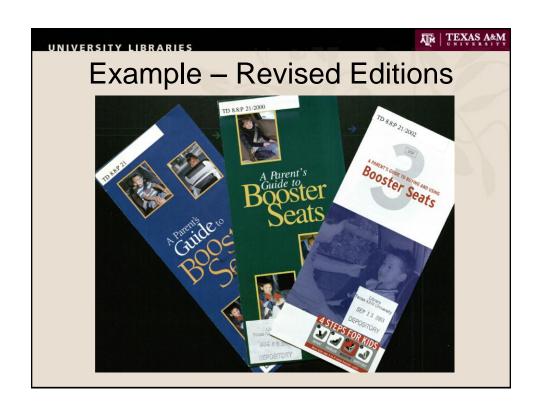


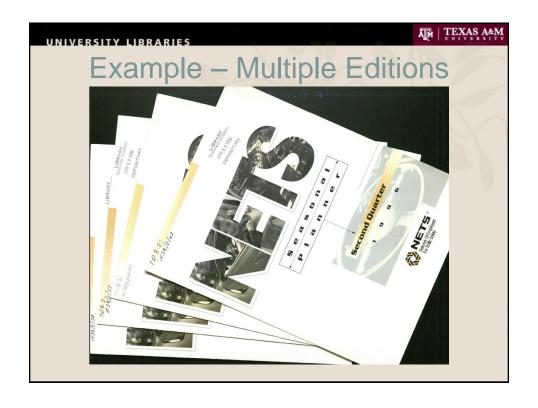


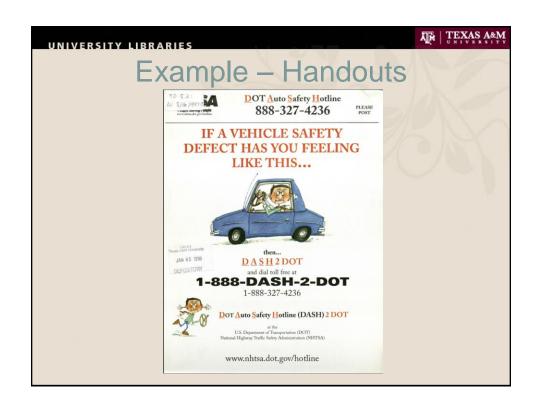


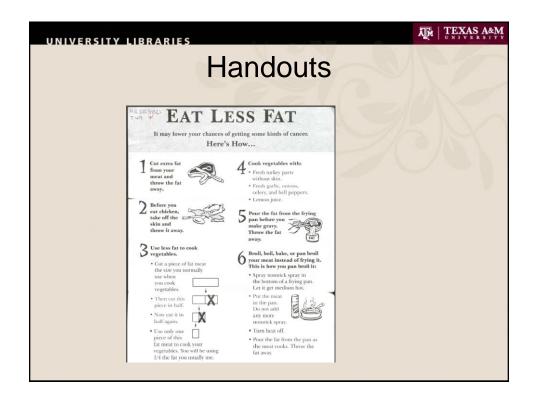


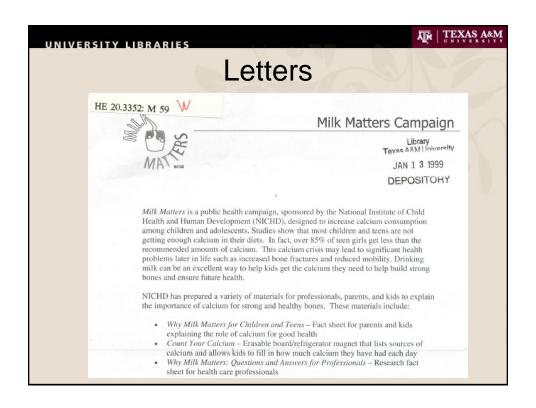


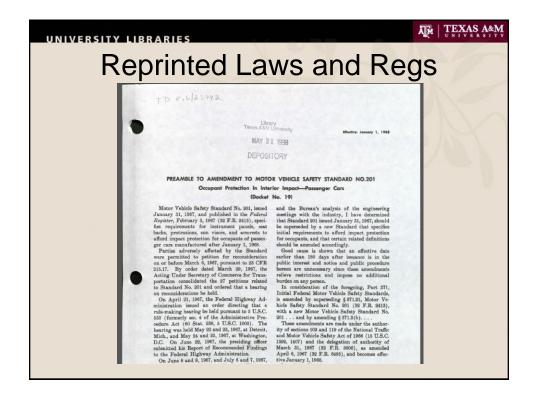


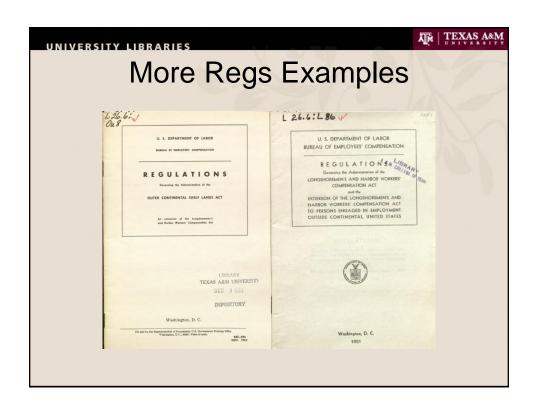


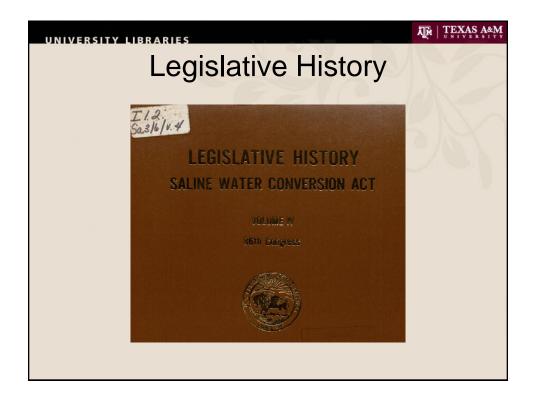


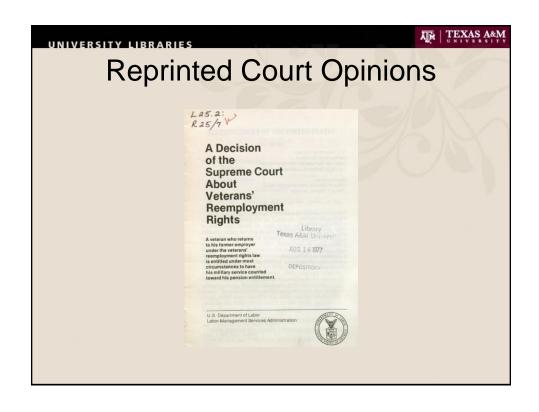


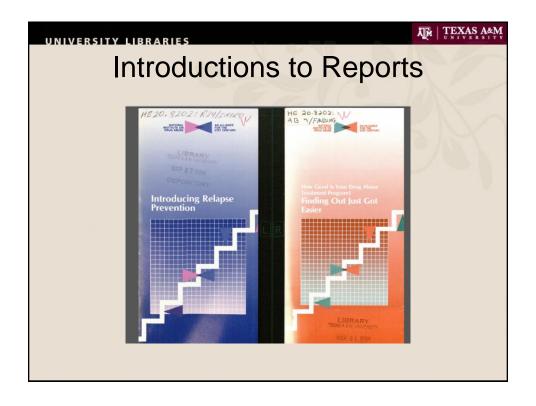


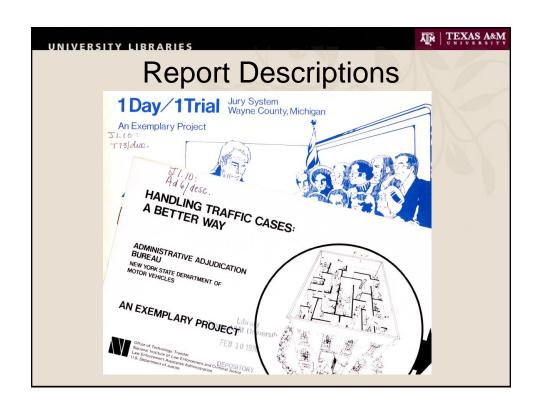


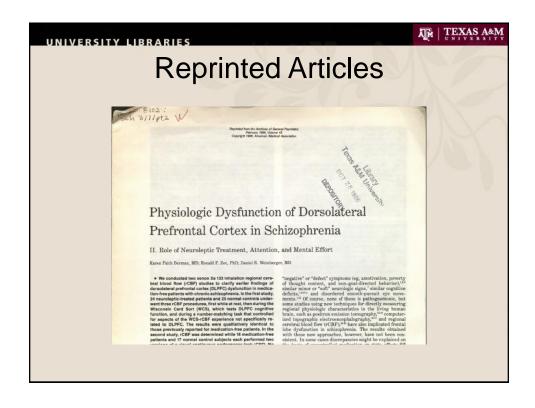


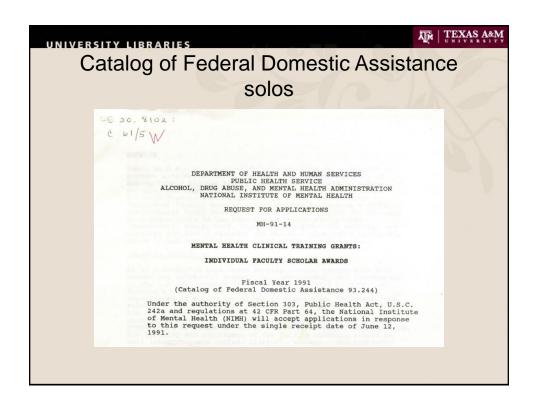


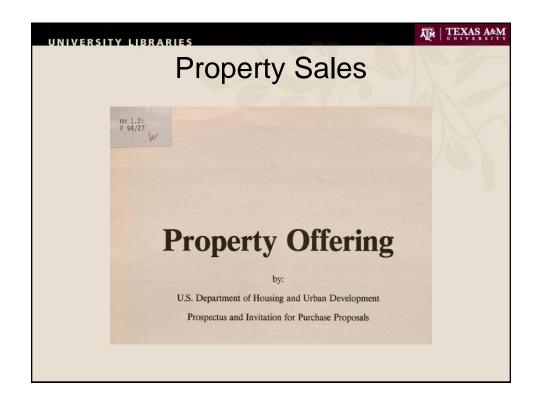


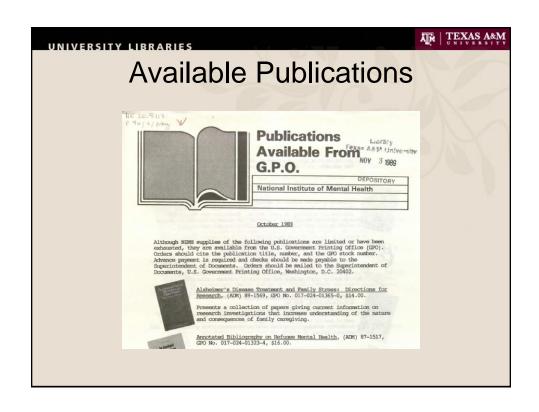


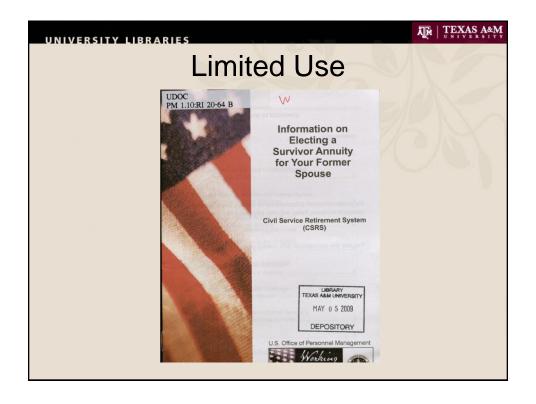




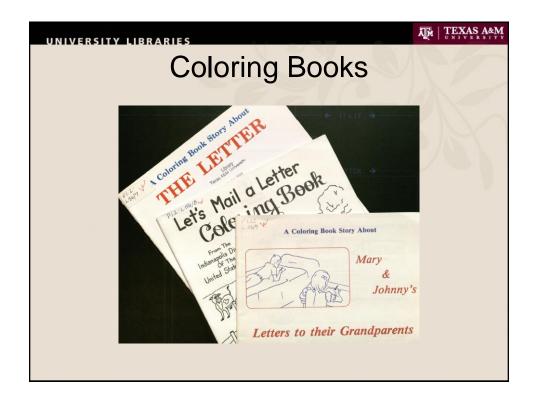


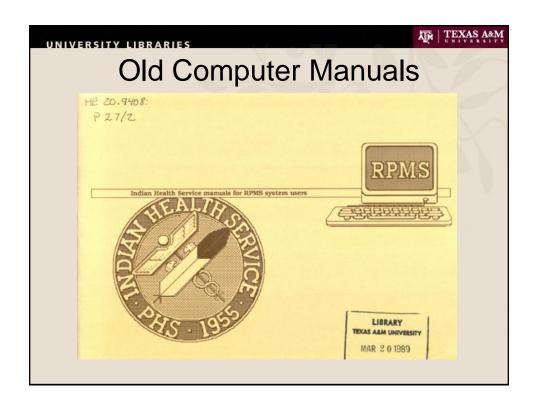


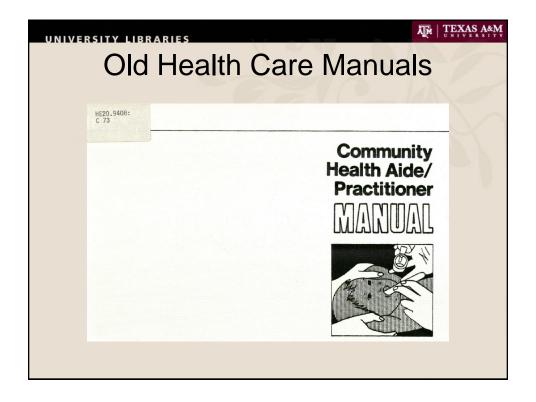


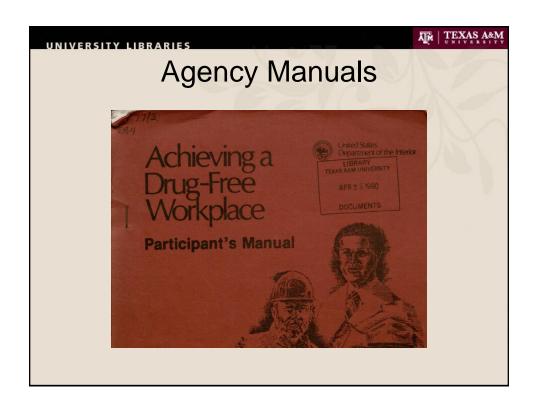


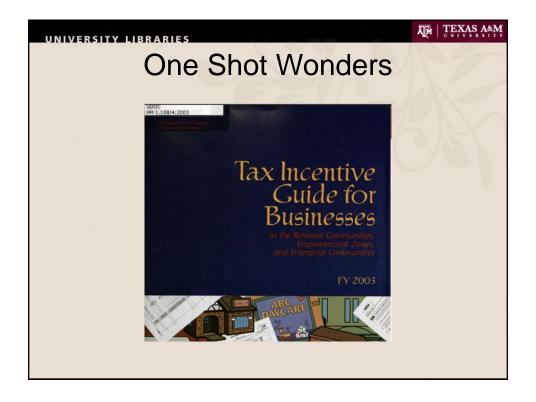


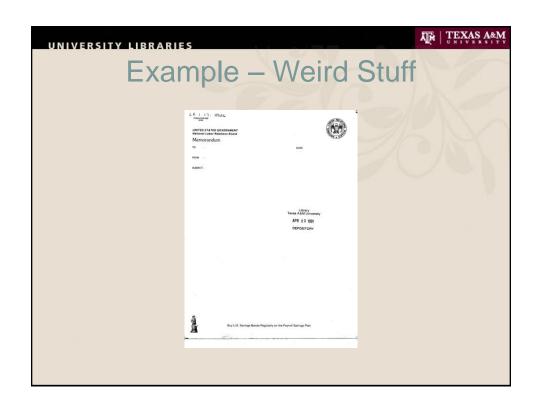


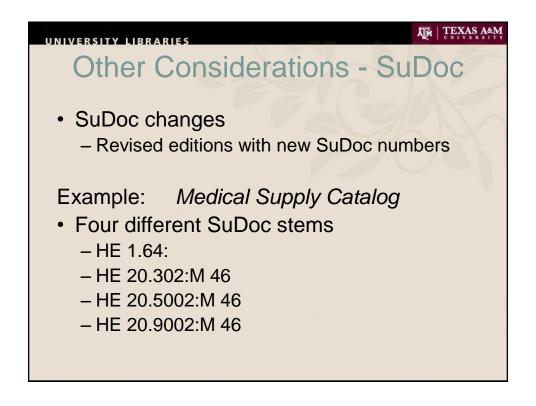


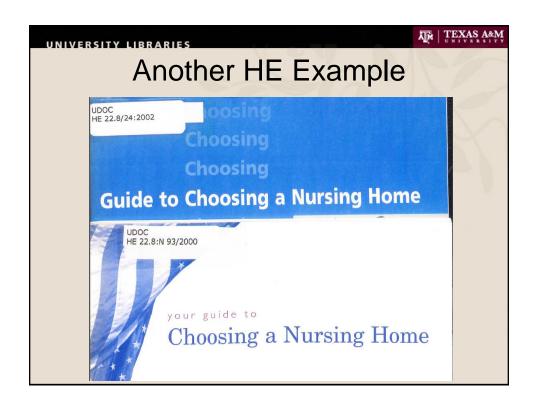


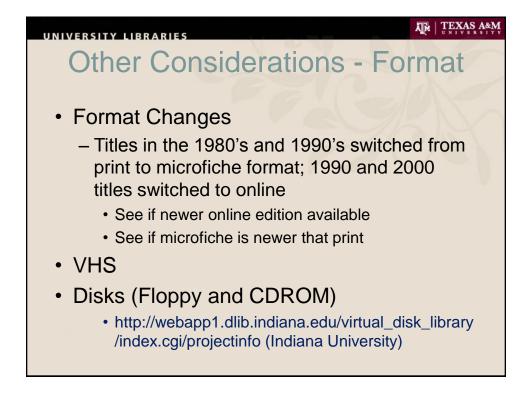












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Other Considerations

- Duplicates
 - Duplicates because of multiple service desks and gifts
 - · Keep one copy for historical use
 - Duplicates
 - ERIC microfiche from Dept. of Ed and through GPO

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Other Considerations

- Check out status
 - See what circulates
 - See what has dust on it
- Condition of document
 - If document is deteriorating on the shelf
 - · Preserve or mend it?
 - · Make a copy?
 - Get a copy from N&O
 - See if HathiTrust has copy online

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Collaborative Digitization

HathiTrust

- Digitized Federal Publications
 - Freely available to anyone 24/7
 - Not official
 - Records in WorldCat

TRAIL - Technical Report Archive & Image Library

http://www.crl.edu/programs/trail

TRAIL Needs List -

http://www.crl.edu/grn/trail/current-activities/needs-list

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Web Sites

- Fdsys
 - Official and perpetual goal
 - · Historical collections
- Cornell agreement with USDA
 - http://agcensus.mannlib.cornell.edu/AgCensus/homepage.do;jsessionid =976AE36DC090A53DDA06A4434CF430B0
- Accessibility issues
 - How long will they keep publications up
 - Government Shutdown no American Factfinder
 - American Factfinder only keeps 2 decennial census at a time

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Considerations of e-docs

 "When we depend on pointing instead of collecting" James A. Jacobs http://freegovinfo.info/node/3900 text

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Process

- Choose an Agency
- Health and Human Services
 - Recommended by Nursing Liaison need current materials to meet accreditation standards
 - Removed manuals from the 1960's and 1970's with outdated medical practices
 - Kept documents with statistics for historical research
- IRS
 - Forms and instructions are online

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Process con't

- Agency Changes
 - OSocial Security Administration (SSA) used to be a part of the Health, Education and Welfare Department (HEW)
 - Many HEW documents were superseded by SSA documents
 Often these documents kept the same publication number making it easy to weed

OCoast Guard

- ➤ Began in the Treasury Department, then the Transportation Agency, now in Homeland Security
- Guide to U.S. Government Publications
 OTraces agency changes

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Process con't

- Weeding sets of materials
 - Census Bureau
 - Older census collections might have all levels of census data for all 50 states
 - Do your patrons only use neighboring states?
 - Withdrawing 45 states resulted in many feet of shelf space at one library
 - Highly coveted on N&O lists because people want duplicates or nice replacements of their states

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Recommendations

Is the document the best information for your patron, or would you use something else

- Like refer user to WebMD instead of outdated consumer health pamphlet
- When in doubt keep it note it and see if it is used and can always withdraw it later
- If at a university, talk with subject liaisons about weeding possibilities, especially major sets

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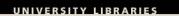
Results

Negatives

- Takes a long time
- Only a few inches of shelf space at a time

Positives

- Greater knowledge of older materials
- Found lots of lost books and documents misshelved
- Found rare items that needed security



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Last thoughts

Weeding superseded tangible copies updates the collection and makes it look less dated.

 This makes reference staff happy, that they can be confident in providing current information

Weeding frees up space for new items and saves money by not housing or preserving unneeded items.

· This makes library directors happy

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Questions?

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