How can you responsibly reduce print collections?

Library users today interact with information and library spaces in ways they haven’t before. While they still come to your library for particular print materials, they also expect room for collaboration, quiet study and other activities. You have an opportunity to adapt to these evolving needs without compromising the value of your local collections. You may be able to open more library space to better serve changing user needs by understanding how your collection overlaps with libraries in your group and collaborating on a shared print collection or by carefully planning a drawdown of your low-use monographs.

Access the experience and resources you need.

The Sustainable Collection Services (SCS) team can help you tackle big decisions about how to best use library space through expert advice and automated data-driven support. We’ve worked with more than 250 libraries, both individually and in groups, on deselection and shared print projects. We provide tools and services that help you manage and share your library’s or group’s print monograph collections carefully and efficiently through visualization and interaction. Our GreenGlass tool, which works with all major ILSs, enables each library or group to define its own criteria for retention and deselection. We also help you make responsible acquisition decisions with a view of your complete shared print collection.

Sustainable Collection Services provides tools and services to help manage, share, archive or remove monographs to transform valuable library space. GreenGlass® is a purpose-built, interactive application that allows you to explore your print collection.
Manage your print collection.

Your users expect the library to serve as a place for collaboration and learning. By proactively managing the size of your print monograph collection and providing alternate access for deselected titles, you can confidently ensure that your library meets all the needs of your users. Together, we can reach this goal.

Understand your goals. The SCS team engages with you to fully understand the scope of the project, the problems you are aiming to solve and the challenges you expect to face. We also want to understand what you consider to be a successful project outcome.

Understand your collection’s use. Using the GreenGlass collection visualization tool, we help you identify collection patterns by usage, subject, location and publication and acquisition dates.

Understand how your collection compares. Through our unique access to WorldCat, we compare your existing collection to others locally and worldwide and help you understand where your collection overlaps with others. We also compare your titles to HathiTrust Digital Library resources and authoritative title lists so you can be sure you’re maintaining access to the most important items as efficiently as possible.

Understand the impact of your decisions. We’ll help you use GreenGlass to compare various scenarios for storing, deselecting or sharing items from your print monograph collection to open library space for other priorities.

Understand your faculty’s priorities. GreenGlass makes it easy for you to share your data and deselection analysis with faculty and administrative stakeholders to get their feedback on your criteria and align your decisions.

“Now we know…”

“Instead of just saying, ‘We think,’ we were able to say, ‘We know,’ based on the scenarios that SCS was able to do for us. When we made presentations to the faculty groups and to our student groups, we were able to talk with some certainty.”

W. Lee Hisle
Vice-President for Information Services and Librarian of the College, Connecticut College
New London, Connecticut, United States

Visit oc.lc/SCSdemo to learn more.

Watch this video learn more about how SCS can support your deselection and shared print projects and see a demonstration of GreenGlass.

Because what is known must be shared.