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Collection Fitness: How the UM Health Sciences Library Is Becoming "Healthier"

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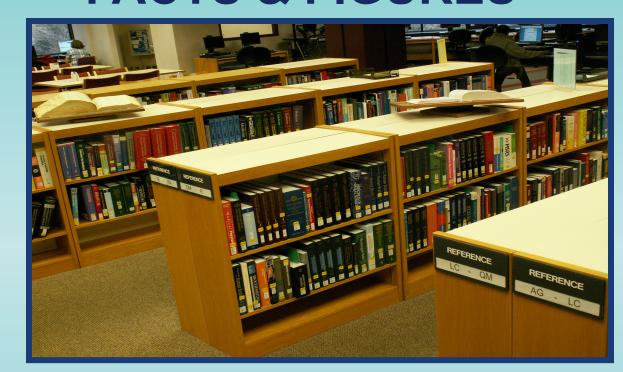
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ABSTRACT: Within the last two years, the physical footprint of the University of Michigan health sciences collections has decreased from three distinct libraries to a single entity. As we have absorbed vast materials into a significantly smaller space, we are defining the University's twenty-first century health sciences research collection in some radical non-traditional ways. Because we serve multiple users from multiple subject fields, both professional (medicine, nursing, public health, pharmacy, and dentistry) and non-professional (social work, gerontology, history of medicine, psychology, etc.), we wonder if it is possible to sustain a collection that meets the needs of our users <u>and</u> maintain our obligations to health sciences researchers and clinicians in the state of Michigan. We're in the process of finding that answer.

FACTS & FIGURES



courtesy of PF Anderson

- Established ca. 1854
- ❖ Primary Clientele: Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health & College of Pharmacy, UM Health System
- 21,400 walk-in visits¹
- ❖ 755,000 library website hits²
- ❖ 19,559 reference questions³
- ❖ 20,000 print & electronic journal subscriptions (including databases)⁴
- ❖ 548,000 print volumes⁵
- ❖ 500+ e-books

CHALLENGES

- ➤ Competing demands for existing physical space due to consolidation of 3 collections (Dentistry, Social Work, and Public Health libraries) with Taubman Medical Library
- ➤ Demand for multiple user e-book access regardless of physical location
- ➤ Increasing need for e-textbook access (UM-UM Library initiative)
- Confusing array of e-book platforms (MD Consult, Access products, Stat!Ref, R2 Digital Library, ebrary, netLibrary, MyiLibrary, Ovid, Karger, Oxford, ScienceDirect, Wiley, Knovel, Safari)
- ➤ No reliable single access point for library collections regardless of format
- Reduced funding for collections
- ➤ Lack of perpetual access or archival rights for e-books and e-journals
- ➤ State expansion of UMHS with concurrent expectations/assumptions for collection access
- ➤ De facto repository for health sciences materials in Michigan

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

- ✓ Deduplication of print journals and monographs with other UM libraries
- ✓ Purchase of e-backfiles → withdrawal of print backruns
- ✓ Limited print retention of journals → share with MCLS, GMR, CIC ????
- ✓ Restrict prints monograph purchases to specific subjects: history of medicine, public health, biographies
- ✓ Purchase monographs on demand regardless of format
- ✓ Continue to purchase unique material not available elsewhere in state or region

REFERENCES

¹⁻⁶University of Michigan. Health Sciences Libraries. *Accomplishments and Activities*, 2008-2009.

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