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Revamping Course Reserves in Light of COVID

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Revamping Course Reserves in Light of COVID

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Abstract — 10 mins

Whether classes have moved to online delivery or the library's COVID safety procedures include quarantining returned materials, chances are regular, print-based course reserves are not feasible for the Fall 2020 semester. This short presentation will outline the process used by the Alfred University Libraries to evaluate which reserve materials needed alternative access, determine what options were available, and implement changes to preserve access for students. Challenges included limited person-power and time for library staff to devote to analyzing usage and options, limited time for faculty outreach, and limited budget for new materials. The Libraries will have to adjust and adapt throughout the semester, but this process laid the groundwork to continue serving students to the greatest extent possible.

COVID Safety Measures

- Closed stacks
- Limited study spaces and capacity
- Quarantine returned circulating materials at least 72 hours
- No longer circulating physical reserve materials
- PLUS: Many classes hybrid or entirely online

Established a Working Group

- Public Services led
- Representative from different library areas
- Herrick vs. Scholes
- Cautious of other librarians' and library teams' workloads

Evaluating Need and Prioritizing

- Fall 2020 courses
- Faculty request / communication
- Circulation history
- Required vs. Recommended
- Course enrollment

Evaluating Options

- Ebook availability and price
- Comparable resources already owned / subscribed
- Is scanning viable?
- OER / OA availability

Recommendations (in order of preference)

1. Switch to OER / OA
2. Unlimited or multi-user library-licensed ebook (already owned)
3. Unlimited or multi-user library-licensed ebook (purchase)
4. Scan from print book and instructor upload to CMS (if copyright-compliant)
5. Work with faculty to identify alternatives held in library
6. Defer to faculty (Libraries not involved)

From Theory to Practice

- Miscommunications
- Watching out for turnaways
- Meeting student needs on the fly
 - Scan on request for individual students

Thank you!

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