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### Historical Medical Books and their Waiting Place

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# Historical Medical Books and their Waiting Place

## From the Library to Offsite Storage

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### OBJECTIVE

In 2021, the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) chose to remain open to students, staff, and faculty after regular staffed business hours. The Resources Archives and Discovery Unit (RAD) was concerned about the security of the collection. This led to an evaluation of books in the collection for titles that were at risk for being stolen, including titles in the history of medicine section, titles with a "do not withdraw note," and titles that would be too expensive or impossible to replace.



### BACKGROUND

In 2017, HSLIC developed a set of evaluation criteria to determine whether older titles that had been weeded should be added back to the library catalog or discarded. Best practices for evaluating library material were determined through a literature search and then adapted. 862 titles were selected to add to the catalog and were added to a shelving location in the library's offsite storage facility called Books – Offsite Storage.

For the 2021 project, we decided to expand on this criteria and create two shelving locations:

1. Books Non-Circulating - Offsite Storage
2. Books Circulating – Offsite Storage

### CRITERIA

#### Books Non-Circulating

- Documents history of a health profession
- Determined as a core title in specialty
- Any title included in Morton-Garrison
- Continuing resources drug information or physician statistics
- Local interest subject areas (i.e. health care in the southwest, tuberculosis, midwifery)\*

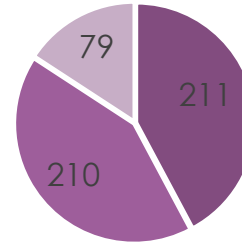
#### Books Circulating - Offsite Storage

Includes material that doesn't fit criteria above that has a "do not weed note", 1 or more copies in Special Collections, history of medicine title published before 1945.

\*McElfresh KR, Gleasner RM. Evaluating a historical medical book collection. J Med Libr Assoc. 2019;107(4):560-565. doi:10.5195/jmla.2019.666

### RESULTS

Titles Evaluated and Moved



■ Non-Circulating ■ Circulating ■ Not Moved



### DISCUSSION

- Creating a circulating collection in offsite storage allowed us to protect items that could potentially be stolen while still making them available to those interested in checking them out
- Moving this material offsite has created a barrier to physical access and will be monitored for use in the coming years
- The collections in the library will continue to be monitored for use through collection statistics and for potential theft
- An inventory of the library general collection may be considered in the next year to determine if any material has been stolen