 **Libraries Change Lives**  
THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING  
[www.hc.lib.mi.us](http://www.hc.lib.mi.us)

## Automated Redistribution Request System for Floating Collections

Sarajo Wentling  
Hennepin County Library  
PLA, February, 2004

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **Hennepin County Library Background**

- One library, 26 buildings
- Centralized selection, technical services
- Annual circulation: 11.8M
- Delivery: 4M items annually
  - 60% back to “owning” library to be reshelved
  - Delivery outsourced: \$250K annually
- Team formed to investigate, plan, implement floating
  - More “How do we” than “Should we”

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **Analysis of delivery data predicted significant drift**

- Migration of material over time from some libraries to others
- Concentrated losses in the 2 largest libraries
- Distributed gains in the 23 small and medium sized libraries
- Causes:
  - Reserves
  - “Patron redistribution”
    - Commuter patterns
    - Open hours and available services
    - Bookdrop availability and design

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Analysis of delivery data predicted significant drift**

- Weekly loss rate of 4% to 8% at the two largest libraries
- Develop an automated redistribution request system to compensate for drift
  - Libraries with a surplus automatically receive requests to send material to libraries with a deficit
  - Developed in-house
  - Experimental

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Automated Redistribution Requests**

- System uses “Percent of Shelf Capacity” to decide how material should be redistributed
- Nightly snapshot of on-shelf material
  - location and collection information recorded
- Number of on-shelf items in each library is compared to allocated shelving to give % of shelf capacity

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Automated Redistribution Requests**

- Current % of shelf capacity is compared to predetermined norms:

<b>Critical Surplus</b>	Over 85%	Must be shed if deficit elsewhere permits
<b>Surplus</b>	75% - 85%	Available to fill critical deficit elsewhere
<b>Ideal</b>	75%	
<b>Deficit</b>	65% - 75%	Available to relieve critical surplus elsewhere
<b>Critical Deficit</b>	Under 65%	Must be filled if surplus elsewhere permits

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Automated Redistribution Requests**

- If **critical surplus** outweighs critical deficit, requests are generated to move material from libraries with critical surplus to those with a deficit
  - Deficits filled in order of need
  - Requests stop when either all the critical surplus is shed or the total deficit is filled

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Automated Redistribution Requests**

- If **critical deficit** outweighs critical surplus, requests are generated to move material to libraries with a critical deficit from those with a surplus
  - Requests for material are sent first to the libraries with the largest surplus
  - Requests stop when either all the critical deficit is filled or the total surplus has been requested

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Automated Redistribution Requests**



The screenshot shows a web application titled "Floating Collection Manager". It displays a table with the following data:

Title	Author	Location
...	...	...
...	...	...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Automated Redistribution Requests**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pilot**

- VHS collection (non-juvenile)
  - Broadly distributed in all libraries
  - Heavily used
  - Reservable
- Started floating on December 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Slow start due to holidays
  - Learning curve for library and delivery staff

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Results**

- Mixed bag, so far
- Major tweaking needed to bring all libraries closer to the 75% ideal
  - 2 largest libraries seem to be stuck at about 55% of shelf capacity – never enough surplus to fill the need
- Problems when one part of the collection is more heavily used
  - Feature films in VHS collection
- More effective than anticipated in reducing deliveries

---

---

---

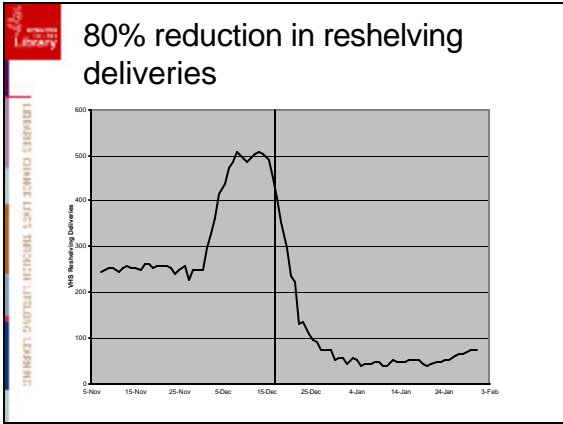
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Libraries Change Lives**  
THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING

[www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)

**Automated Redistribution Request System  
for Floating Collections**

For more information, contact HCL's  
Collection Handling Action Team  
[chat@hclib.org](mailto:chat@hclib.org)

Presentation available at  
<http://www.hclib.org/extranet>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---