Shelving Plan for the Clark Memorial Library at the University of Portland

Background

The Clark Memorial Library at the University of Portland began a major renovation in May 2012. In the new building, the bulk of the 200,000+ volume physical collection will be shelved in user-accessible compact shelving. This project will guide the collection’s transition from the interim location to the compact shelving in the new building.

Problem

How will the Clark Memorial Library’s collection be shelved in the newly renovated building in order to make effective use of the space and leave room for future growth?

Measuring the Collection

- Collection shelved in a converted parking garage for 13 months during the building renovation
- Determined the amount of linear feet occupied by the collection and divided collection measurements into subject areas based on call number ranges

Estimating Collection Growth

- Estimated growth of specific subject areas based on number of volumes added over last 5 years
- Created growth rating scale to simplify shelving map

Creating a shelving plan that maps out collection on to the compact shelving

- Shelving plan will guide the movers when the collection is moved back in June 2013
- Available free space was divided based on growth ratings to create standard shelf gap sizes
- Created shelving map on an Excel spreadsheet that shows how the collection will appear on the compact shelving in the renovated building

Impact

- This project informed decisions about how the collection will be shelved in the new building
- Strategically planning growth room on the shelves will reduce the need for shifting the collection as it grows, which is a labor-intensive process with compact shelving