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## Anatomy of Data-Driven Deselection Project

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# Anatomy of a Data-Driven Deselection Project

Doug Way  
Grand Valley State University Libraries  
ALA Midwinter  
January 22, 2011



# Brief Background

- About GVSU



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# Brief Background

- About GVSU
- The Problem
  - New Library



# Brief Background

- About GVSU
- The Problem
  - New Library
  - Off-site storage



# Brief Background

- About GVSU
- The Problem
  - New Library
  - Off-site Storage
  - ASRS Systems



# Brief Background

- About GVSU
- The Problem
- The Desire
  - Short-term
  - Long-term



# Brief Background

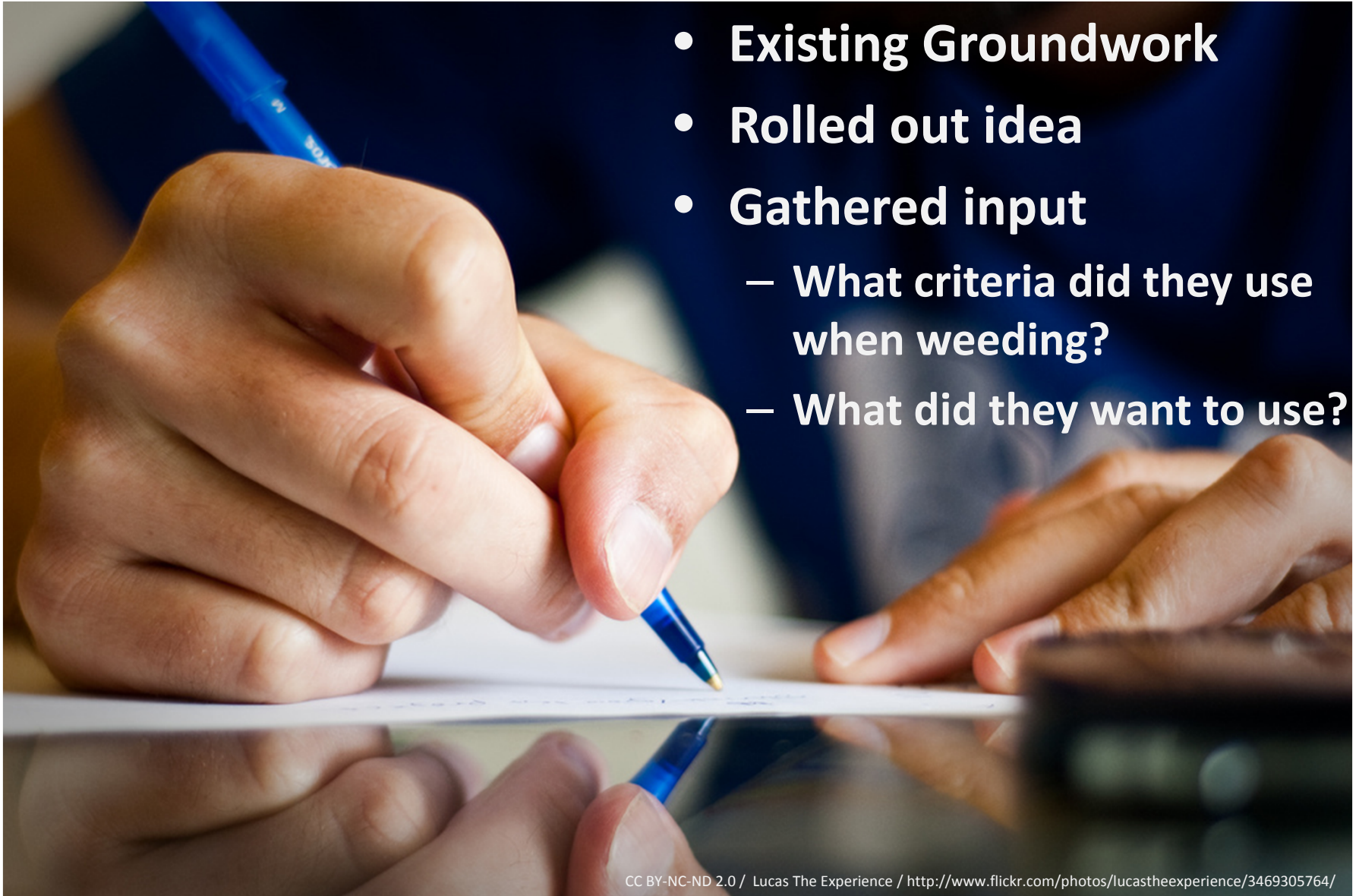
- About GVSU
- The Problem
- The Desire
- The Plan
  - Data-driven deselection
  - Working with SCS





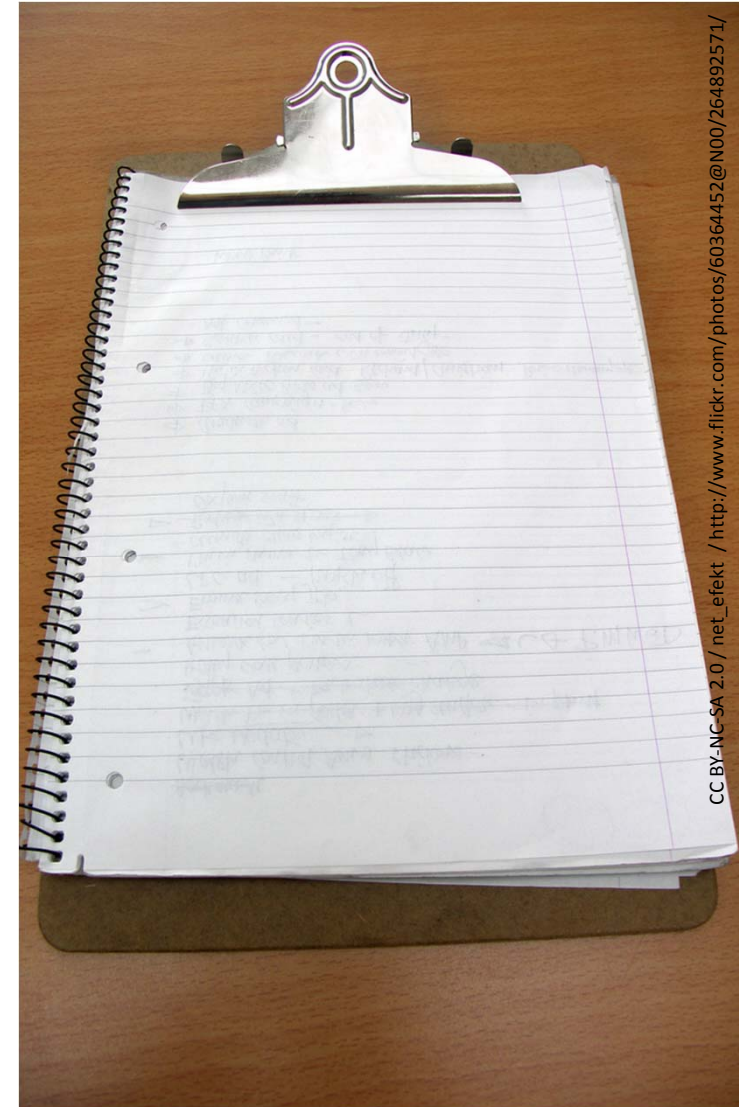
# Developing Buy-in

- Existing Groundwork
- Rolled out idea
- Gathered input
  - What criteria did they use when weeding?
  - What did they want to use?



# Identifying Criteria to Use

- Has it been used?
  - *Zero circs since 1998*
- How old is it?
  - *Published prior to 2000*
- Has it gotten good reviews?
  - *Reviewed in Choice*
- Is it on standard lists?
  - *Resources for College Libraries*
- Do other libraries own it?
  - *100 libraries in the U.S.*

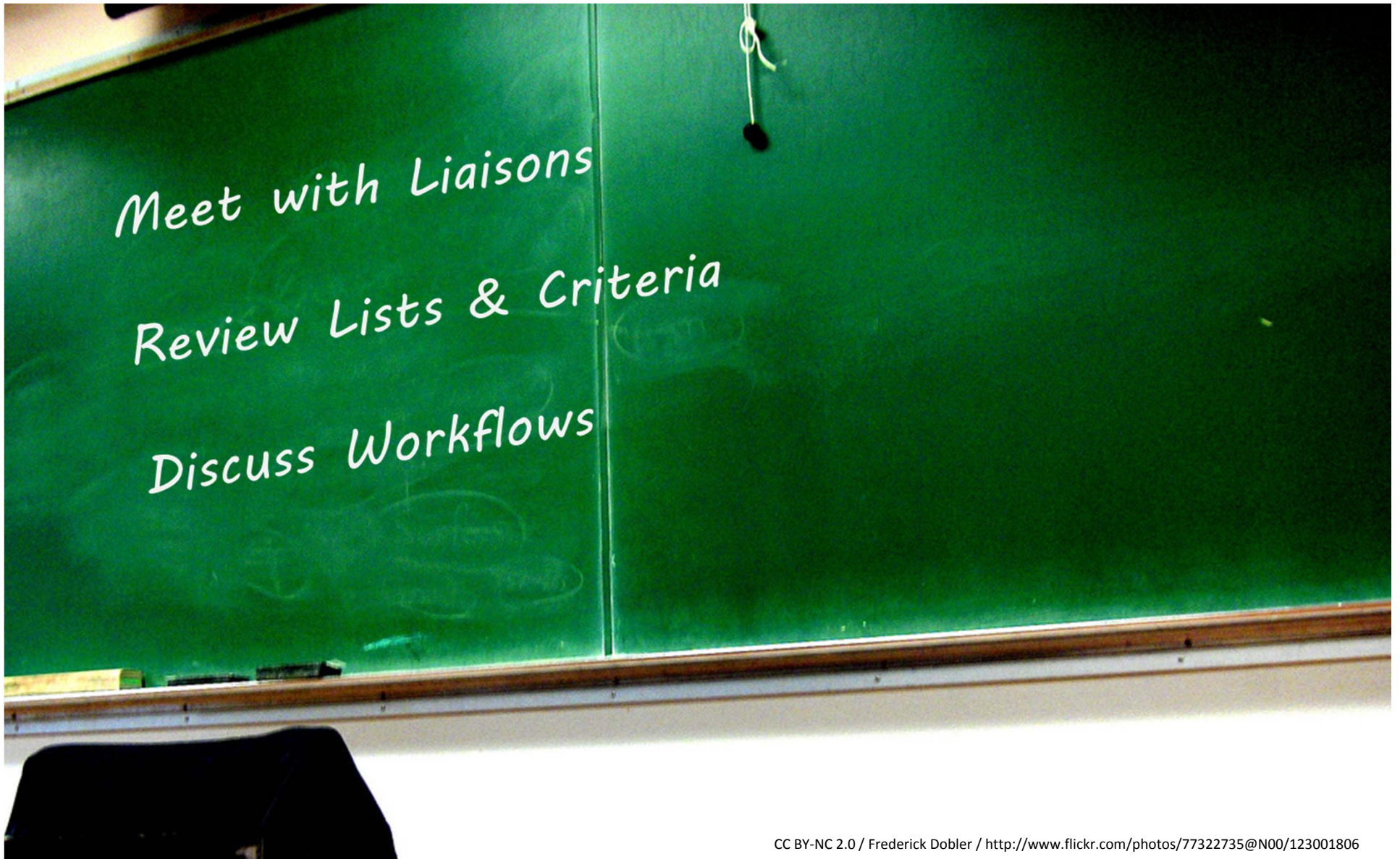


# Exchange of Data

- **Sent SCS our Circulation and holdings data**
- **Received back a list of potential withdrawal and preservation candidates**



# Visit from SCS



# Revision of Lists

- Narrow or broaden criteria
- Varied by liaison
  - Circulation, Holdings (nationally & in state)
- Ended up adding another 9,000 titles to the list



# Review of Candidates

- Virtual / No Physical Review
- Staged
- Flagged



# Retention of Candidates

- Rationale behind process
- Reasons for Keeping Books



# Retention of Candidates

- Rationale behind process
- Reasons for Keeping Books

**1. Classic Work**

Essential titles in a field of study. Examples might include Blassingame's *The Slave Community* or Griffin's *Black Like Me*. Essential reference works might also fall into this category.

**2. Biography**

This is in some ways a variation on number one because not all biographies will have lasting value, especially depending on the subject of the biography.

**3. Major Author**

Examples might include John Hope Franklin or John Dewey.

**4. Important press or series in this field of study**

Examples might include the Geological Society of America in field of geology or Loeb Classical Library in classics.

**5. Supports area of emerging curricular growth**

An example might be a new minor, major or emphasis.

**6. Part of a set**

This would be where volume 2 is slated for discard, but volumes 1 and 3 are not.



# Results

Just over 86% of withdrawal candidates were removed from the collection



# Breakdown

Subject Area	Total Items in Storage	Withdrawal Candidates	Saved	Candidates Withdrawn
Humanities	53,020	24,391	4,412	19,979 (82%)
Social Sciences	13500	5,388	523	4,865 (90.3%)
Science / Technology / Engineering	16,638	7,644	194	7,450 (97.5%)
Medicine	4,593	1,239	180	1,059 (85.5%)
Totals	87,751	38,662	5,309	33,353 (86%)

# Behind the Curtain

- **All candidates initially suppressed**
- **Rationales for retained books were batch uploaded**
- **Items with no rationale were withdrawn**
- **Batch removal of OCLC holdings**
- **Withdrawn titles were recycled**

# Communication



# Next Steps



# Next Steps

- Shared Storage Project
- Weed of open Shelves & existing ASRS
- Long-term: automate the weeding process

# Thank You

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