Back to the Future: Upgrading your VHS collection for increased space & accessibility

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CONTEXT
The University of British Columbia’s Okanagan Campus Library is located on the university’s smaller campus in Kelowna, BC, Canada. This project was designed to serve as a pilot for the larger upgrade on the main Vancouver campus.

The project was proposed in 2012 to increase study space in the library and to improve accessibility to the collection.

The project started with consultations with university legal and the copyright office, a literature review of similar initiatives globally, and an analysis of legal requirements in Canada under Bill C-11.

GOALS
Deselect
- Low circulation
- Shifts in courses taught on our campus

Replace (DVD format)
- Available to purchase on DVD
- High circulation
- Used for course reserves
- Applied to teaching, learning & research

Reformat
- Due to lack of availability of DVD replacement copy
- Preservation of content

PROCESS
Key Players:
- Included librarians, distributors, copyright department, legal team, copyright owners, support staff, and faculty

Timeline:
- Round one decisions in early 2013 reduced items from 7,000+ to ~1,400
- Staff analysis of replacement pricing for budget projections – mid 2013
- Round two decisions with faculty consultation – late 2013 to early 2014
  - Deselected last copies transferred to main campus for preservation
  - Eliminated ~400 additional titles
- Replacement – late 2013 to present (nearing completion)
  - Locating distributors and prices, arranging for bulk purchases
- Reformatting – late 2014 to present (expected completion late 2016)
  - Permissions from copyright owners, or identifying unlocatable owners

Financial Responsibilities:
- Back to the Future: Upgrading your VHS collection for increased space & accessibility
- Arielle Lomness, MLIS
- Collections Librarian
- Okanagan Campus Library

CONCLUSIONS
Although still ongoing and nearing completion, this pilot project served its purpose in demonstrating the methods of replacement and reformatting of media facing obsolescence, and provides a tool for estimating the cost and time of future projects.