**Library Reference Project Update**

Reorganization of our reference resources has been a 2013/14 priority for the Richard H. Rush Library.

After reviewing the current literature, identifying our priorities, and engaging in much spirited deliberation among the faculty librarians, we have moved forward with plans to dramatically shift our focus towards digital reference materials.

To that end, you’ll notice some physical changes the next time you visit the second floor of The Rush Library. To date, we have deselected 1,252 print items from our physical reference collection – almost half the total –leaving a lean and functional 1,366 volumes on our reference shelves. We have also formed a smaller collection of the most in-demand print reference volumes, and housed them inside of our Research Lab. These titles will now be closer at hand when students come in seeking help from their librarians. The space saved from removing the physical volumes and shelving will be converted to student study space; a much sought after commodity in our library.

Beyond the physical withdrawal of materials, creating a more robust digital collection has been, and will continue to be, an ongoing priority for the library faculty. We have greatly increased our eBook holdings over the past few years, and will now shift some of our collection development focus towards broadening our assortment of traditional reference materials to be held online where they are easily accessible to our users, students, and faculty alike, from anywhere on the planet with an internet connection.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to swing by the library and speak to a librarian in person or call the library at 239-489-9220 (ext. 1220). We always welcome feedback.