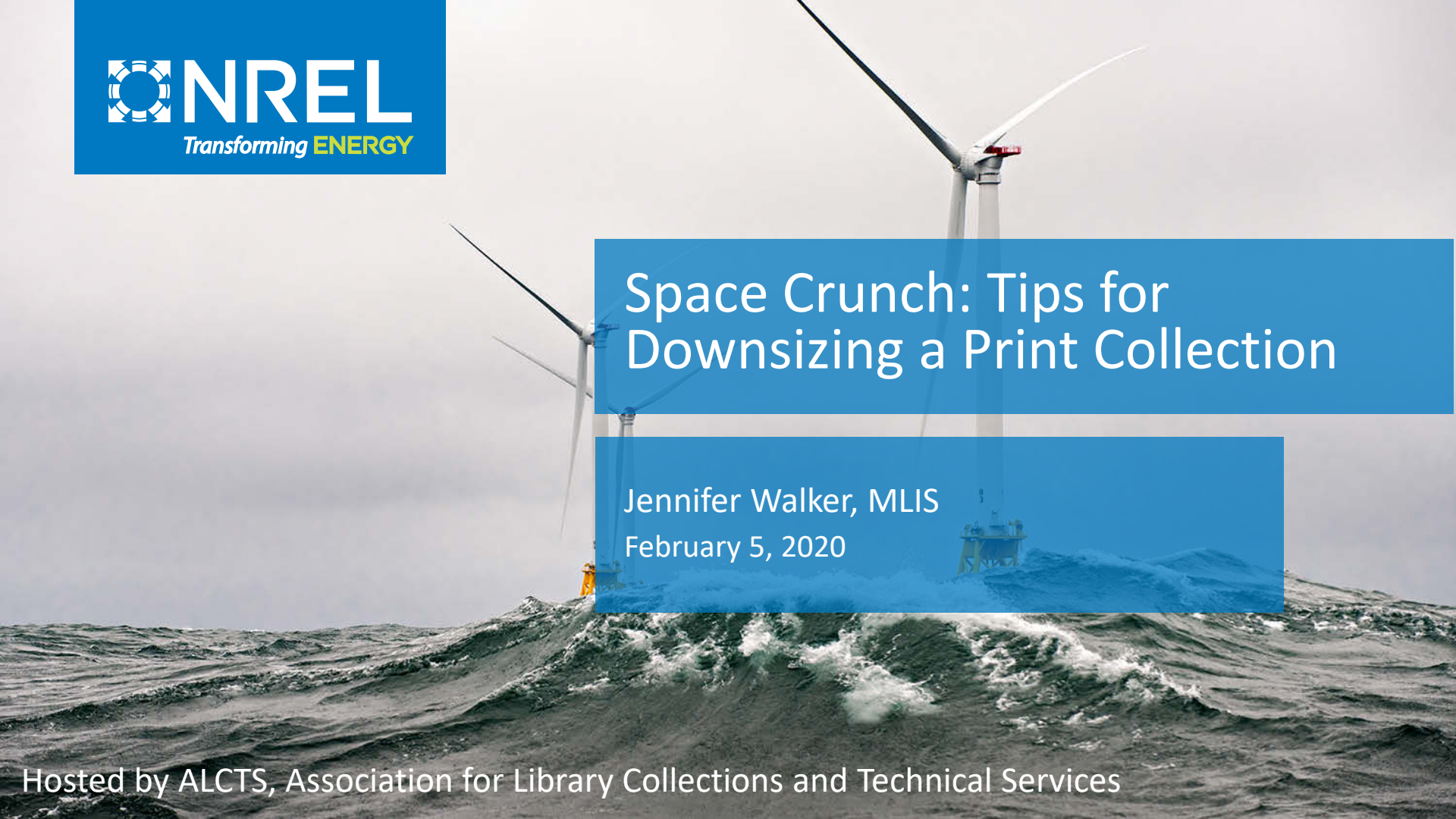

Space Crunch: Tips for Downsizing a Print Collection

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Jennifer Walker is the Collection Development Librarian at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO. Jennifer has been at the lab for 7 years, 5 of which have been spent in the collection development role and the previous 2 years as a reference and interlibrary loan librarian. Prior to NREL, Jennifer worked in both academic and special libraries.

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National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Mission: NREL advances the science and engineering of energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and renewable power technologies and provides the knowledge to integrate and optimize energy systems.

- 16 research programs
- Publishes more than 1,700 scientific and technical materials annually
- Employs 2,700 staff including researchers, support staff, postdoctoral researchers, interns, visiting professionals and subcontractors

NREL Library

Mission: to advance the lab's mission of research and technology transfer in renewable energy and energy efficiency through the delivery of resources and services integral to scientific collaboration and discovery.

- *Staff*: 5 full-time librarians and 2 part-time interns
- *Collection*: Approx. 100,000 resources in electronic and print format
- *Library space*: 100% occupancy rate

The Print Reduction Project

Project Timeline

- **December 2017**: project initiation; goals & plan development; began weeding the NREL/SERI print technical reports collection
- **March 2018:** began weeding the print journals collection
- **August 2018:** purchased some journal backfiles; began weeding the print book collection
- **December 2018:** purchased some ebooks to replace some print books
- **August 2019:** finished weeding the books; purchased some journal backfiles and ebooks
- **September 2019:** hired 2 interns to help with scanning & cataloging
- **December 2019:** finished weeding the technical reports; purchased some ebooks

Weeding Strategy

- Remove freely available items and add a link in the bib record
- Remove duplicate copies, older editions, items we also own in electronic format, foreign languages, and data/graphs in print
- Remove outdated or irrelevant content
- Check item availability in Worldcat
- Move some content that can’t be purchased in electronic format to alternate storage
- Record those journals and books that can be purchased in electronic format

Other Weeding Strategies

- Circulation statistics
- Solicit feedback
- Establish a living weeding plan

Collection Assessment

Starting Collection

- Approx. 25,000 print items in the collection

Journals

- 532 electronic journal backfiles purchased
- 402 titles left to purchase

Books

- 2,500 books in the stacks that can be purchased as ebooks
- 678 ebooks purchased so far

Technical Reports

- Thousands of technical reports in the queue to be unbound, scanned, and cataloged

Ending Collection

- Reduced print collection by approx. 50%
- Still have content left to purchase

Next Steps

- Finish scanning and cataloging the technical reports
- Shift the remaining content
- Remove the empty stacks and reconfigure the library space

Questions?

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- Be proactive
- Create a print reduction plan
- Stakeholder investment
- Consider the potential culture shift
- Establish a realistic timeline
- Recruit extra help if possible
- Don’t panic

Questions?

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