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## Transforming the library space to accommodate team-based and blended learning activities: The National Medical Library, United Arab Emirates University

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# Transforming the library space to accommodate team-based and blended learning activities

## The National Medical Library, United Arab Emirates University

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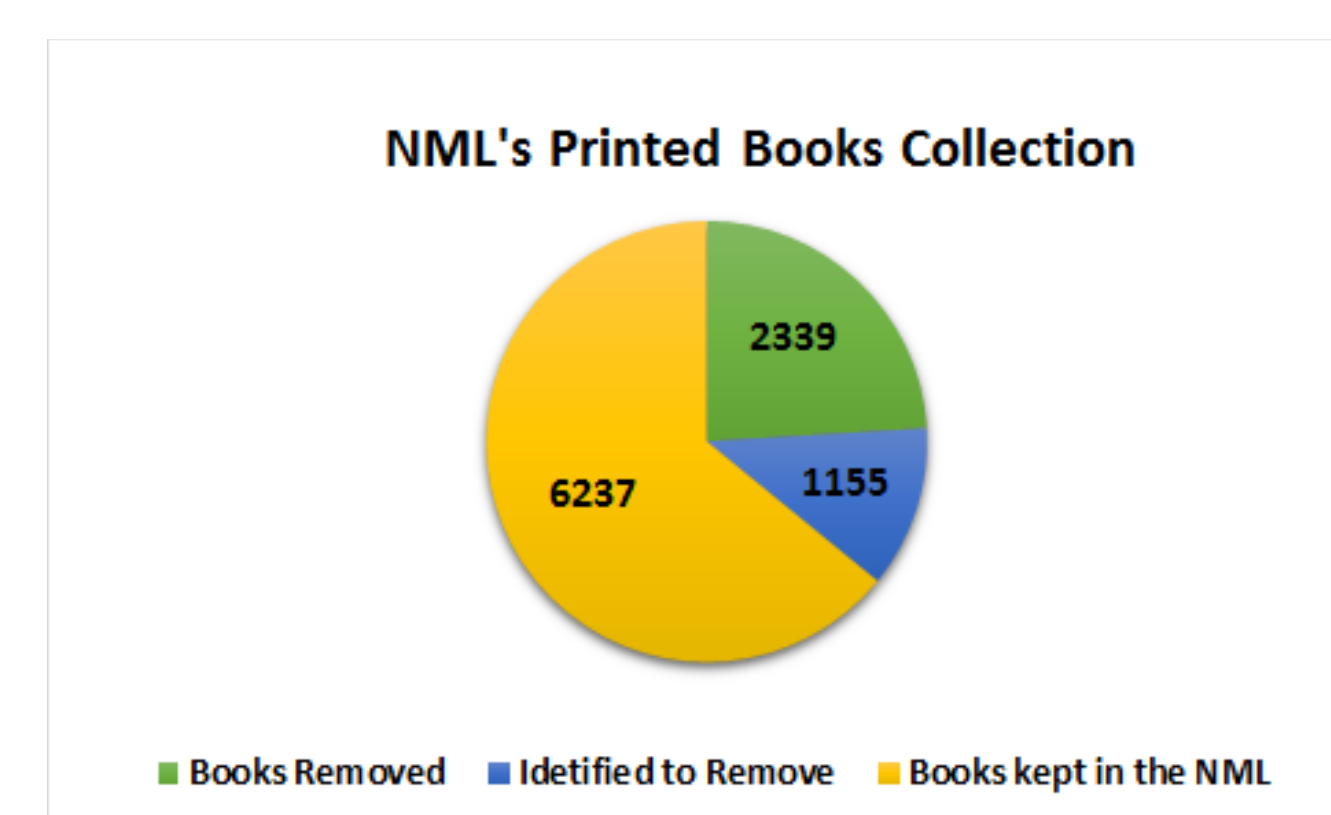
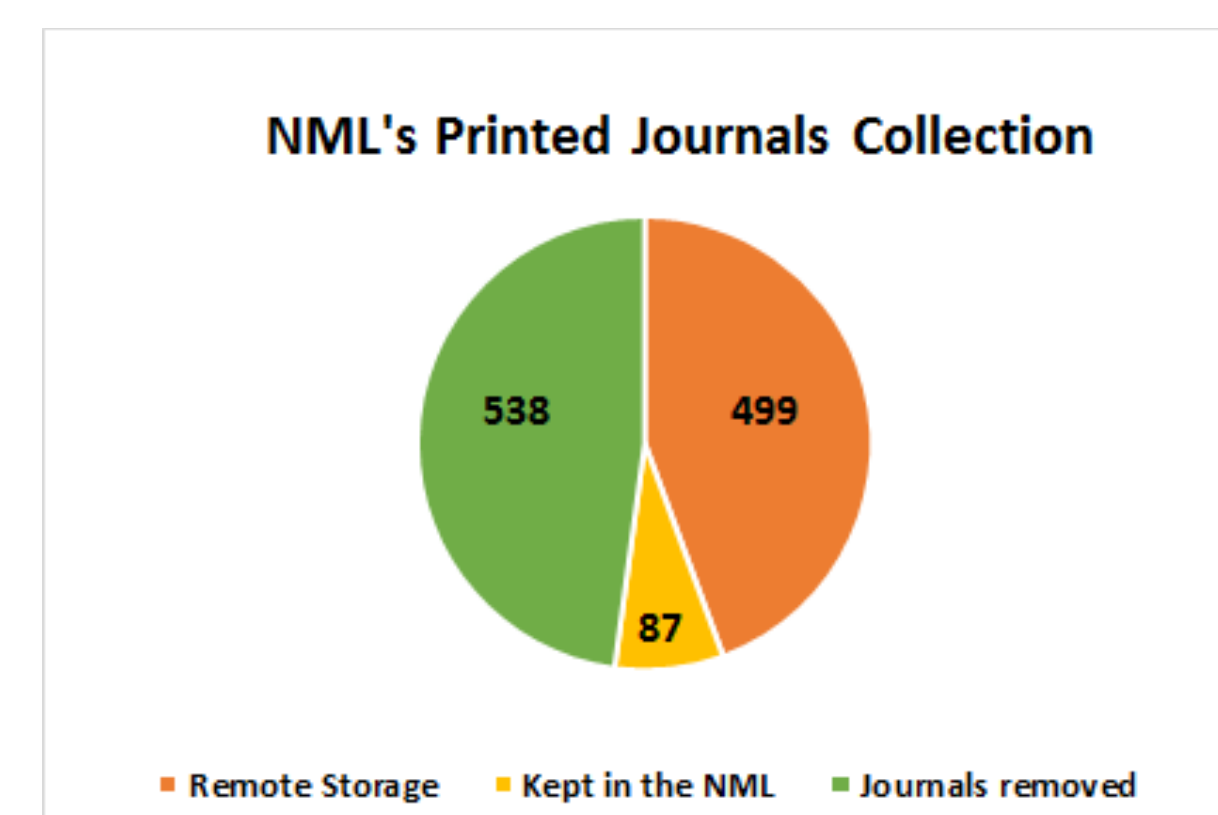
### INTRODUCTION

United Arab Emirates University's strategic plan for 2017-2021 includes a goal about redefining the role of libraries to support learning and, research activities in 21st century. In connection to the goal, the National Medical Library (NML) has carried out a re-designing project of its space to accommodate team-based and blended learning activities.

### SPACE CREATED

With a start in 2017 NML carried out a project, including removing a large portion of outdated printed books and journals. 1600 shelf meters of outdated printed journals and 44 % of the library's printed books collection was removed to make space for a modern and interactive study area designed to facilitate blended and team-based learning and research activities.

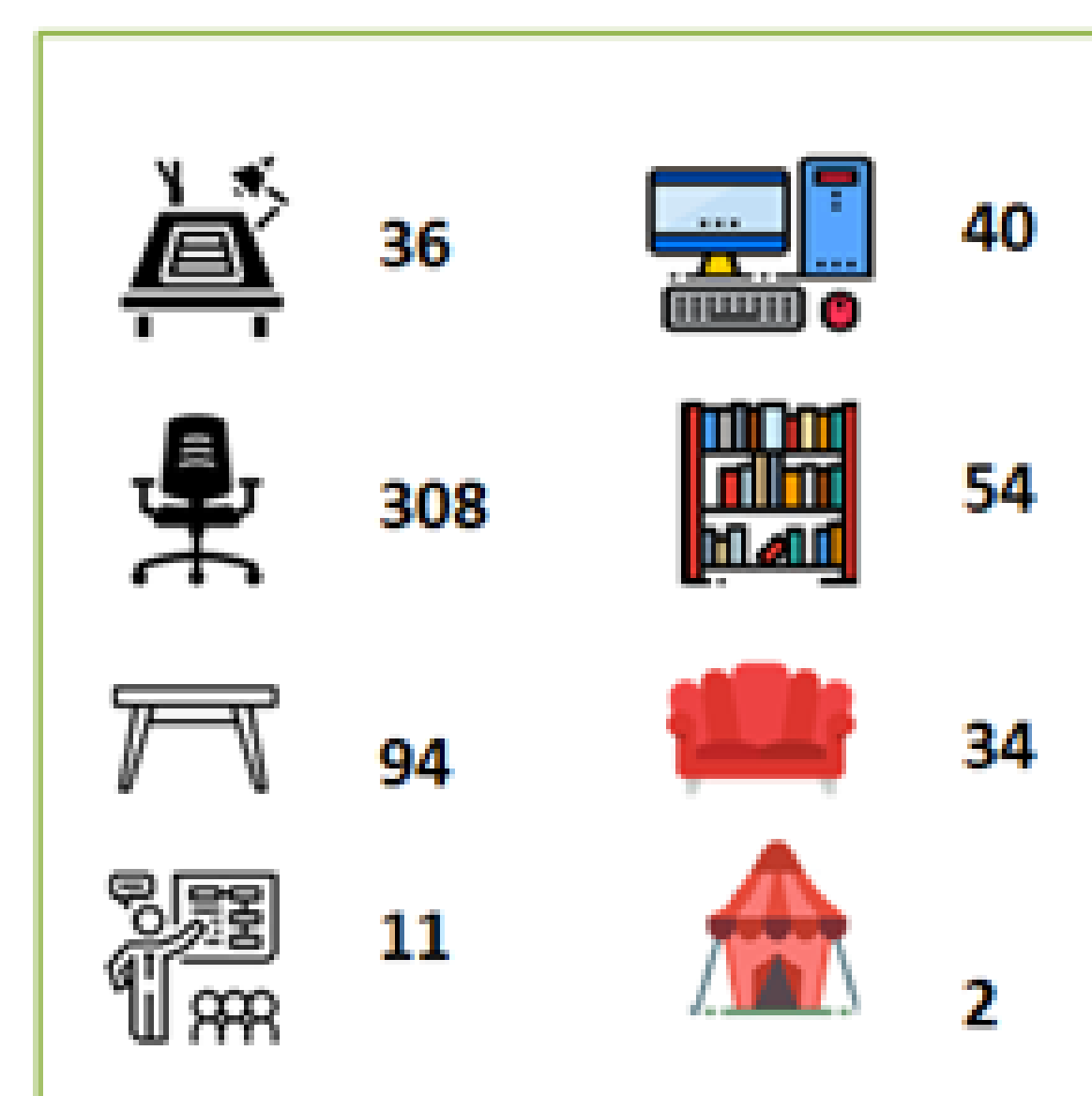
The charts show how the the space created in the library by \*weeding the printed materials.



\*Weeded means removed

### ABOUT NML

Established in 1986, NML is the first medical library in the UAE. The library provides services and resources to over **700** students and **240** faculty, researchers and staff members at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS) plus members from the medical community in the UAE.



NML Facilities

### TEAM BASED LEARNING

Old furniture has been replaced with modern and colorful learning-centered furniture. Adjustable study lights have been installed, and chairs and tables with wheels purchased for flexible classroom and group study settings. Sofas for relaxation, studying or social interaction were also added to the new design. The library's 11 individual study rooms were re- designed with new furniture and presentation screens, and a team- based learning and workshop area with new AV equipment developed. Additional computers were added in various accessible locations with improved Wi-Fi connectivity to support blended learning.



### LEARNING INTERACTION



Two permanent learning encouraging exhibitions, "Research as Art" and "Historical Moments of the Past" have been launched to enhance the study environment in the library.

"Research as Art" is a collection of 32 medical images from different research projects at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS), and the exhibition "Historical Moments of the Past" highlights development of health care services in the UAE under the leadership of Shaikh Zayed.

### SOCIAL INTERACTION

Two traditional majlis are also set in the library for social and educational gatherings and events. The majlis for example has been the arena for the College National Day celebrations and presentations hosted by the library. A number of educational speeches have also been held in the majlis. For example the speech of Dr. Mohammad Al-Houqani, "Health services in UAE before 1971". The Dean of the college has also started using the majlis for social gathering to discuss various topics related to CMHS.



### CONCLUSION

By redesigning the NML to accommodate team-based and blended learning activities and hosting campus wide social events, the library's visitor number has increased. The library now welcomes up to 12,000 visitors per month. The facilities are also used for more TBL (Team Based Learning) sessions and workshops.

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