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How We Closed A Library And Opened Up Our Stacks: Providing Alternative Access Through Virtual Shelves

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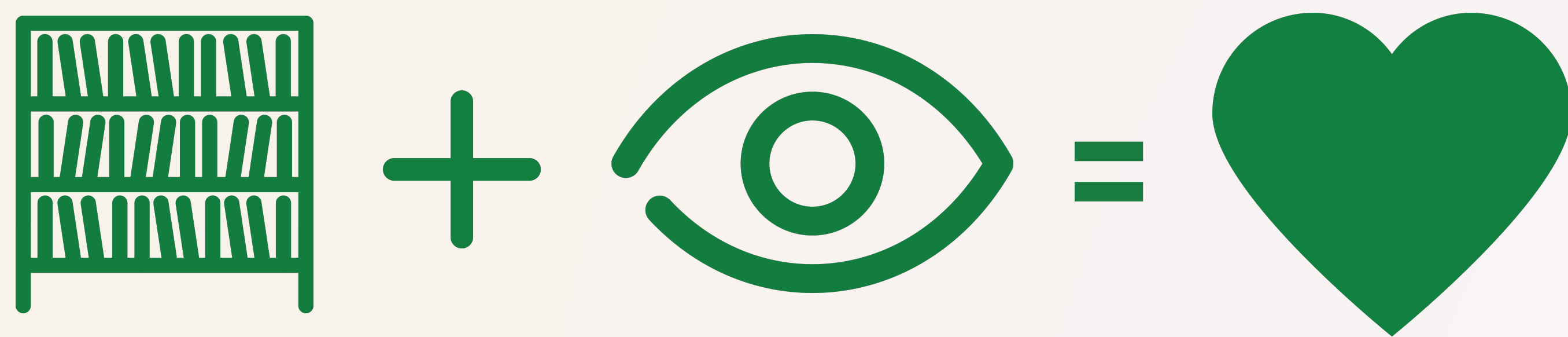
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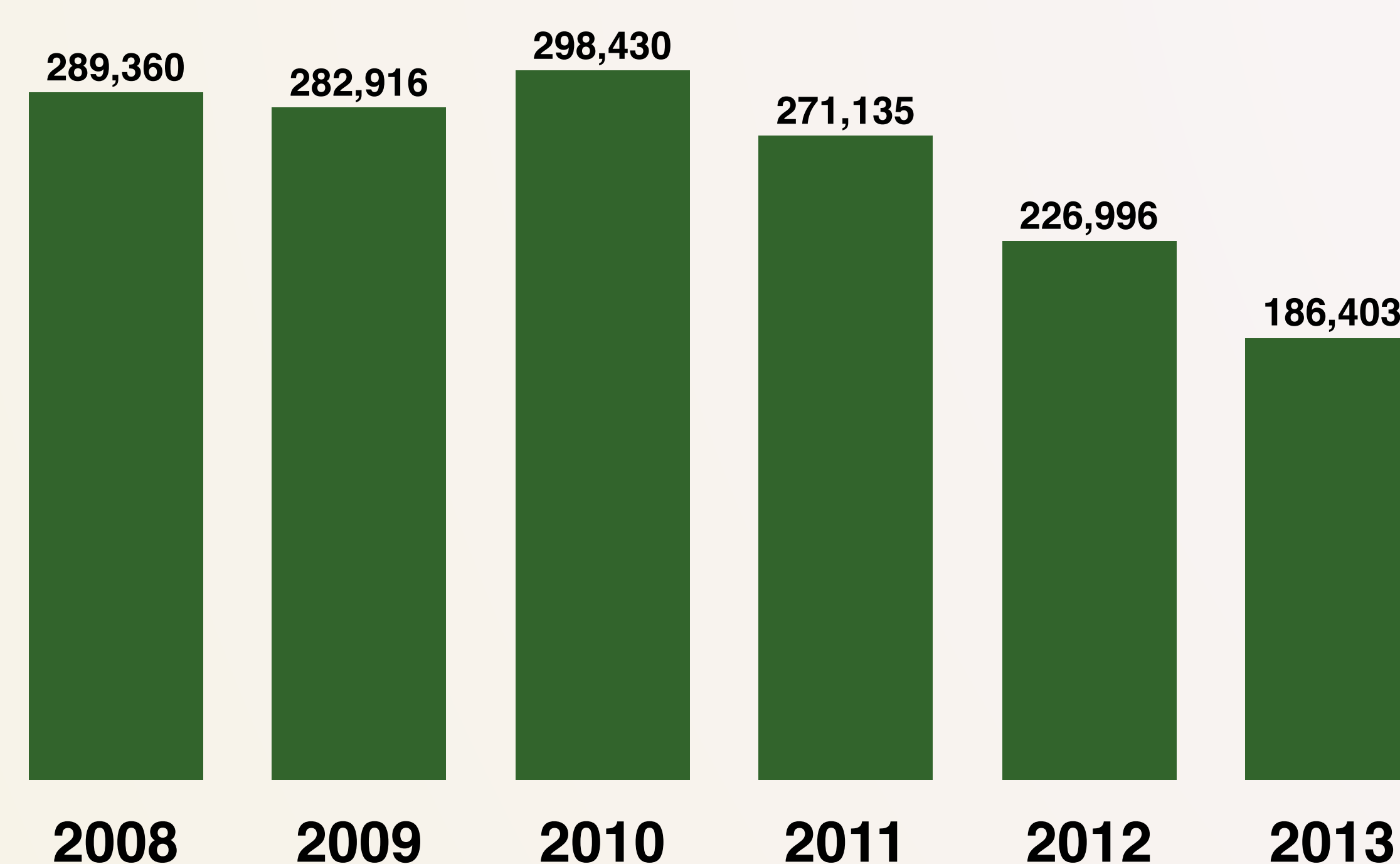
HOW WE CLOSED A LIBRARY AND OPENED UP OUR STACKS: PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE ACCESS THROUGH VIRTUAL SHELVES

OUR PATRONS LOVE TO BROWSE

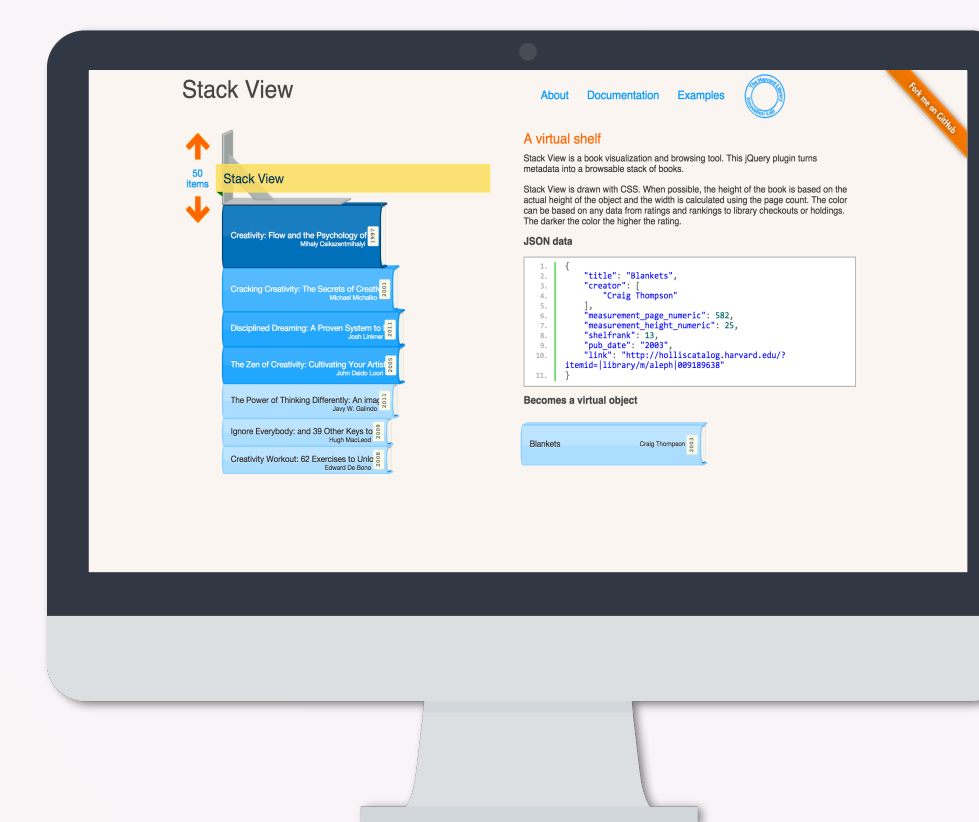


Browsing still matters to our researchers. Area scanning proved to be a very popular technique for browsing among our patrons.

DECLINING GATE COUNTS FOR THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LIBRARY



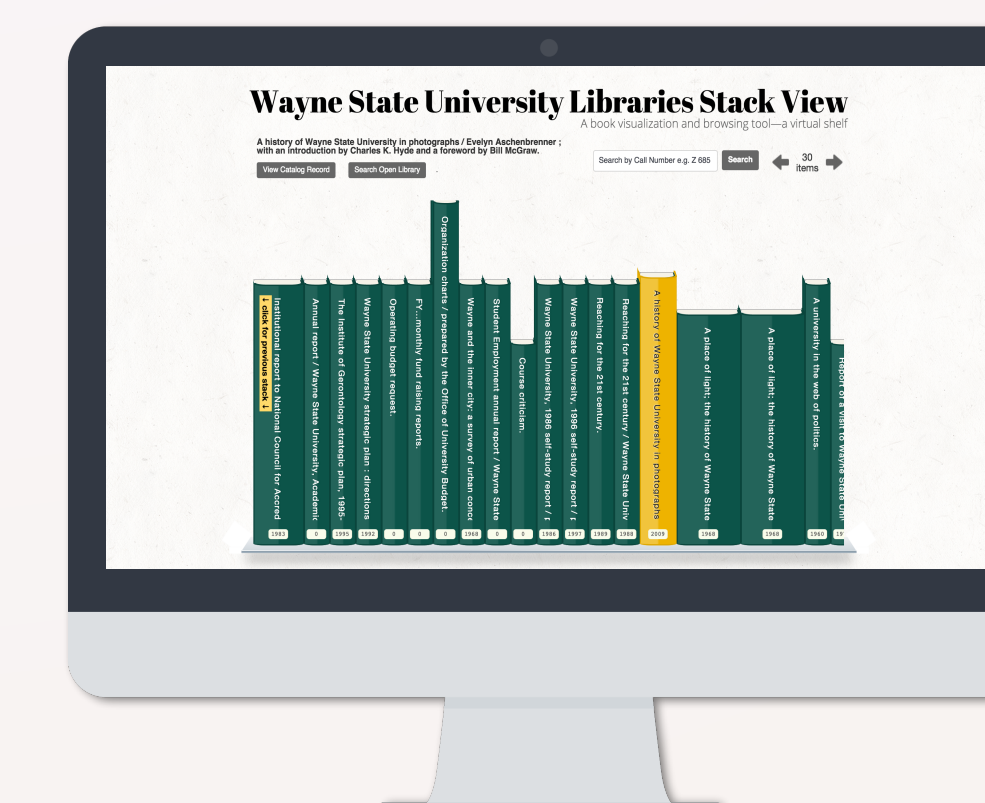
Years of declining gate counts and diminishing overall use of the Science & Engineering Library, among other issues, led to its closure. In order to not lose the ability to browse the stacks, we began to investigate ways to provide robust virtual call number browsing of these and all of our stacks.



Harvard's Library Innovation Lab built and released open source software called Stack View. It allows libraries to search and visualize results on a continually expanding book shelf.

STACK VIEW IMPLEMENTATION

We took Stack View a step further in emulating our shelves. It reorients the shelf and, most importantly, adds in it the ability for call number based browsing, just like in our stacks.



HOW DID WE MAKE IT HAPPEN?

Z39.50 CSS3 jQuery php

We built software that connected the shelf viewer to our catalog. Written in PHP, the software uses the YAZ toolkit and the Z39.50 protocol to request item records and holding data from the catalog, which it then processes and displays in the viewer. We also modified the Stack View display, using jQuery and CSS3, to add in book availability, location, and orient the shelf to look more like a portion of our stacks.

INCREASING USE OF STACK VIEW FOR ALL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

After its introduction to patrons more than a year ago, our virtual shelf viewer has found consistent usage and positive feedback from users.

WANT YOUR OWN SHELF VIEWER?

Find it on GitHub: <https://github.com/WSULib/SVCatConnector>