Weeding in the Garden of Good and Evil

Using the CREW Method

Presented by Linda Williams and Maria Bernier
Connecticut State Library
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Registration & Coffee – 9:30 a.m.
Workshop – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Introductions
- Issues Participants Would Like Addressed
- Weeding in the Garden of Good and Evil
- Weeding Practice
- Discussion of What We Weeded
Less is More

This:

Not This!: 
Unfortunately...

**There is no sure-fire, fail-safe formula for weeding!**

- It is essential to:
  - Have a well thought out collection development policy which addresses weeding
  - Be well informed
  - Be familiar with books, authors and other library material
In addition……

❖ You need to:

▪ Be familiar with the library’s long range plan and goals for the collection
▪ Know community needs and interests of library users
▪ Take all of this into account as you weed
Weeding is an integral part of collection development – We balance what is acquired with what needs discarding.

Discarding and selection go hand in hand.

Systematic removal of materials no longer useful is essential to maintaining the quality of your collection.
Why Weed?

- Weeding is not the irresponsible disposal of the library’s property but rather a part of the public service to borrowers, that of maintaining the best possible collection for the community.
Where are all the books going?
“Weeding” Explained. (To patrons).
https://www.lewisu.edu/library/newsletter/wordpress/?p=620
Benefits of Weeding

- Save space
- Save time
- Make the collection more appealing
- Increase circulation
Benefits of Weeding

- Enhance your library’s reputation for reliability and currency
- Keep up with collection needs
- Constant insight on collection strengths and weaknesses
Your Weeding Policy

Should:

❑ Be part of your materials selection policy

❑ Address:

  • Reasons for and issues involved in weeding
  • Criteria used
  • Disposal of weeded material
Examples

Weeding Policies:

❑ Public Library of Cincinnati
  http://www.cincinnatilibrary.org/policies/collectiondevelopment.html

❑ School Library CD Policies
  https://library.sd.gov/LIB/SLC/LibCollectionDevelopmentFrameWork.pdf (go to page 7 for template)

❑ University of Arkansas at Little Rock
  https://ualr.edu/library/cd-guidelines-weeding/
  (includes links for special considerations on electronic resources, federal documents & reference materials)

❑ Extreme Simplicity!:
Criteria for Weeding

❑ Contents
❑ Format
❑ Use
Criteria for Weeding

Contents

- Out of date material that is misleading or factually inaccurate
- May have been superceded by a new edition or a better book on the subject
- Outdated best sellers as well as books which have outlived their popularity
Criteria for Weeding

Format

- Pages that are badly soiled, torn or missing
- Binding may be in poor condition, beyond repair
- Print or paper may be of poor quality so that it is difficult to read
- Books that may have been “edited” by patrons
Criteria for Weeding

- Use (circulation)
  - Check publication date; approximately 50% of the circulation of a title occurs in the first 5 years after acquisition
  - Check the last circulation date; consider weeding items which have not circulated in 3 to 5 years
C.R.E.W.

- Continuous
- Review
- Evaluation
- Weeding
M.U.S.T.I.E.

- Misleading and/or inaccurate
- Ugly worn beyond mending or binding
- Superseded by newer or better work
- Trivial, of no literary or scientific merit
- Irrelevant to needs and interests of your community
- Elsewhere, information may be obtained more easily through ILL or in other sources
As you look at subject areas you see AGE/CIRC/MUSTIE

- For example
  - 610 (Medicine) 5/3/MUSTIE
  - 004 (Computers) 3/X/MUSTIE

- Guidelines for specific areas are included
  - Materials on fast changing fields of research, such as AIDS, cancer, infertility 2/X/MUSTIE
New C.R.E.W. Method


- Subject areas now include suggestions for collection development as well as weeding

- The text explaining the criteria have been enhanced

- Although some information is specific to Texas, most of it is right on the money

- An overview chart at the back gives easy access to the formulas

- A great bibliography and list of resources
The C.R.E.W. Method

- Special criteria included for:
  - Reference
  - Nonprint
  - Childrens

- More on this later on…..
What wouldn’t I weed?

- Local history or local interest
- Rare items
- Material which is out of print and may be irreplaceable
- Material listed in a standard source
- Material of research value – most likely in an academic library
The Weeding Process

How To Get It Done
When?

- Set priorities and schedule times for weeding
- Possibly when the library is closed
- Shelf read prior to weeding
- In conjunction with inventory
- Take it in small doses
- Throughout the year
- Before renovation/construction
Who?

- Everyone on the staff (Friends and trustees, too) should understand the importance and purpose of weeding.
- Work with a buddy.
- Check with experts like Healthnet or law librarians [http://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/librariesinfo.htm](http://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/librariesinfo.htm).
- Ultimately, the person responsible for collection development makes the final decision about what to weed.
- Develop guidelines for support staff and volunteers to follow when shelving.
Supplies You Will Need

- Circulation records
- Book truck
- Weeding (CREW) manual
- Extra scrap cards, pencil/pen
  - To make notes of subject areas you want to replace or order new
- Standard catalogs
- Weeding slips
Weeding Slip

- **WITHDRAW**
  - Misleading
    - Outdated or obsolete
    - Factually inaccurate
  - Ugly
    - Worn beyond repair
    - Dirty, shabby, warped, moldy, marked up, mutilated, or has yellowed or missing pages
    - Pictures and/or format outdated for today’s children (black & white, poor quality reproduction, grainy, etc.)
  - Superseeded
    - Newer edition available
  - Trivial
    - No literary merit (not “classic”)
    - No scientific merit
  - Irrelevant
    - Has not circulated in ___ years
    - No longer a “hot topic”
    - Duplicate copies no longer needed
  - Elsewhere
    - More updated information can easily be found online

- **REPAIR**
  - With something else on this subject
  - With a newer edition of this same book
  - With the same book

- **OTHER (Notes)**
How?

- Handle each item
- Check each item for:
  - Date of publication
  - Last circulation
  - # of circs
  - Condition
  - Format

- Consider
  - Key information which might have changed recently
  - Accuracy
  - Whether item is included in standard catalogs
  - Other copies in consortium
How?

- For each item removed:
  - Insert Weeding slip and mark with decision
  - Remove from catalog
  - Stamp “Withdrawn” or “Discard”
  - Dispose of according to your policy
If you’re not quite convinced about discarding a book, give it one last chance in a featured display. If it STILL doesn’t circulate, then weed.
Is it a rare book or worth $$$?

- Your Old Books – lists criteria for determining if a book is valuable or rare plus appraisal and preservation resources
  
  http://rbms.info/yob/

- Age ≠ value
Is it a rare book or worth $$$?

- Online Booksellers:
  - ViaLibri: [www.vialibri.net](http://www.vialibri.net) – A meta search engine that checks multiple used book sites (including AbeBooks) and individual sellers’ own sites
  - EBay: [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)
  - Book Finder: [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com)
Disposal

- **Sell it** – Friends or Library book sale, online as well as in person, consignments
- **Donate it** – Nursing homes, prisons, international
- **Recycle it** – Check for a recycler in your area, or do book art programs in your library
- **Destroy it** – in a way that your ownership isn’t obvious
Resources:

- **Online sales by the library**
  - Used Book websites such as ABEbooks, Alibris, Amazon, etc.

- **Resellers**
  - Better World Books: [https://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/libraries](https://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/libraries) – by mail or local drop boxes
  - Book Prospector: [http://www.bookprospector.com](http://www.bookprospector.com)

- **Donate**
  - Find an international program that accepts book donations: [https://library.buffalo.edu/hsl/donations-program/](https://library.buffalo.edu/hsl/donations-program/)
  - Duplicates Exchange Union from ALCTS: [http://www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/ecoms/deu](http://www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/ecoms/deu)
  - New Haven Reads: [http://newhavenreads.org/home/donate/](http://newhavenreads.org/home/donate/)
  - Wonderland Booksavers: [https://wonderlandbooksavers.com/](https://wonderlandbooksavers.com/)
  - Darien Book Aid Plan: [http://www.darienbookaid.org/donate-books.html](http://www.darienbookaid.org/donate-books.html)
Disposal

Resources

- **Donate** *(continued)*
  - Read-to-Grow: [http://readtogrow.org/](http://readtogrow.org/)


- **Book Sale Leftovers**: Document Compiled by the Public Library Section of CLA. It’s a bit out of date, but lists others not listed here:

- **Other Ideas**:
  - **GREEN WEEDING**: [https://guides.library.illinois.edu/green-libraries/collection-development](https://guides.library.illinois.edu/green-libraries/collection-development)
  - Turn it into *book art*
Special Areas of Your Collection
Children’s Fiction

- Is the book still popular?
- Stereotyping?
  - People with disabilities, or
  - Age, gender or racial bias
- Classics and award winners: Still in demand?
  - Replace with new editions
  - May no longer be a need for old award winners, or
  - Old best list books, like Notables
- Bindings
Young Adult Fiction

- Is this a YA title over 5 years old?
- Will teens consider the cover art old fashioned?
- Is this a “fad” book and is the “fad” over?
- Is there still demand for the series?
- https://yasfnews.wordpress.com/tag/weeding/
Condition is a major factor to consider. Weed:

- Tattered books & books with broken bindings
- Poorly covered books

Replace heavily used copies of classic picture books

Weed fad books (e.g. TV tie ins, etc) as soon as the popularity has waned
Follow the same guidelines as for adult nonfiction.

Keep in mind:
• Children & teens are more likely to accept without question…
• Is the whole book accurate or only parts of it?

CREW Quote:
“Outdated information… provides a warped and inaccurate view of the subject and results in a lowered regard for the expertise of the librarian. Parents, teachers, and children will then question the validity of the collection. It is better to lack enough information on a topic than to have erroneous information.” page 34
Ask yourself

- Is it circulating?
- Is it a duplicate copy?
- Is it part of a series?
- Is the author still writing?
- Is it up to date in style, setting?
- Is it on a recommended list?
- If it’s in bad condition, should we replace?
- Is it a familiar genre to me?
- Are people still asking for this genre?
- Are there other copies in the consortium/state?
Weeding Tips: Tackling Fiction, by Rebecca Vnuk
https://tinyurl.com/ycav5ukl
Ask yourself

- Is the information available online or in researchIT CT?
- Do we get newer editions regularly?

Observations of patron use are important

Check the CREW manual for guidance on specific subject areas and types of material, i.e. encyclopedias, almanacs
Other Formats - AV

- Ask yourself
  - Is this format still popular?
  - Can I get it in a new format?
  - Is the item in good condition?
  - Has it circulated in the last year?
  - Do I need to actually view or listen to the item to make a decision?
  - If I weeded this would I be able to get a copy on ILL if necessary?
- Primary factors here are use, popularity and wear

- CREW includes advice on specific formats
H. W. Wilson Core Collections

- Formerly known as Wilson Standard Catalogs
- Available in print and online
- Print catalogs are published every 4 years, and include yearly supplements
- May be borrowed from a service center
H. W. Wilson Core Collections

- Print titles:
  - Children’s Core Collection
  - Young Adult Fiction Core Collection
  - Middle & Junior High Core Collection
  - Senior High Core Collection
  - Fiction Core Collection
  - Public Library Core Collection: Nonfiction
  - Graphic Novels Core Collection
H. W. Wilson Core Collections

- Online titles:
  - Graphic Novels Core Collection
  - Nonbook Materials Core Collection

- For details: [https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/graphic-novels-core-collection](https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/graphic-novels-core-collection)
Recommended Websites

- **Weeding Library Collections**: A Selected Annotated Bibliography for Library Collection Evaluation (ALA Fact Sheet #15)
  

- **Weeding in Libraries**: a Partial Index to What’s Out there – includes policies, resources for all types of libraries
  
  [http://www.havana.lib.il.us/weeding/](http://www.havana.lib.il.us/weeding/)

- **Weeding Guidelines by Subject**
  
More Websites

- Weeding and deselection bibliography at OCLC
  https://www.oclc.org/sustainable-collections/bibliography.en.html

- The Art of Weeding | Collection Management at Library Journal

- Awful Library Books
  http://awfullibrarybooks.net/ (my submission! http://awfullibrarybooks.net/bang-bang-youre-dead/)
Resources for Schools

- Collection Maintenance & Weeding *(Eduscapes: The School Library Media Specialist)*
  http://eduscapes.com/sms/access/weeding.html

- Keeping Your Library Collection Smelling F.R.E.S.H.!
  http://www.librarygirl.net/2013/10/keeping-your-library-collection.html

- Winning at Weeding
  A School Library Journal article that discusses a method for getting teachers on board with your weeding
  https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=winning-at-weeding
Online Weeding Courses

- Collection Development Training: Weeding - Arizona State Library

- Weeding course from Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE)
  [http://www.lili.org/forlibs/ce/able/course4/01index.htm](http://www.lili.org/forlibs/ce/able/course4/01index.htm)

- Weeding Videos
  - [https://learn.webjunction.org/course/search.php?search=Month+of+Weeding+project](https://learn.webjunction.org/course/search.php?search=Month+of+Weeding+project)
I can’t believe you’re throwing out books!
https://tinyurl.com/y9v3tohg – Julie Goldberg

Quote: “What I’m done with is the fetishization of the codex, with books for books’ sake. I see no point in stockpiling stories that no longer speak to anyone, scientific knowledge decades out of date, speculations about the future that never came to pass, information shaped blithely by the racism and sexism of its time. **But more than anything else, I’m finished with the idea that books just by virtue of their existence are precious things that can never outlive their usefulness.**”
Further Reading

Material Available from the Service Centers

  - 025.216 VNU

  - 025.216 LAR

- **Gwinnett County Public Library Weeding Guidelines**, 2nd ed., distributed by PLA, 2002
  - 025.216 WEE
Further Reading

- **Rightsizing the Academic Library Collection**, ALA, 2015
  - 025.2 WAR

  - 025.216 BAU

- **The Public Library Policy Writer**, Neal-Schuman, 2008
  - 025.1974 LAR

- **Analyzing Library Collection Use with Excel**, ALA, 2007
  - 025.2102 GRE
Further Reading

- **Making a Collection Count: A holistic approach to library collection management**, Chandos, 2013
  - 025.21 HIB

- **Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management**, ALA, 2015
  - 025.21 JOH
Remember.....

Weed it and Reap!

LibGuide page with this Power Point and all the links:
http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/professional/workshopnotes