

“If it’s a perfectly good book, we wouldn’t be tossing it!”
Justifying and Advocating for Weeding Your Collection
Presentation by Kathleen Stacey
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1. Allen, M. (2010). Weed 'em and reap: The art of weeding to avoid criticism. *Library Media Connection*, 28(6), 32-33. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=50728717&site=ehost-live>

“...it is better to have worthless books in the trash than trash on your shelves.”

2. Anderson, M. A. (2010). Weeding, from alphabet books to zip drives. *Multimedia & internet@schools*, 17(3), 28-30. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=52239414&site=ehost-live>

“Be prepared to explain that there's a difference between being in love with books and being in love with content.”

“If shelves are empty, people notice the need for funds to purchase more.”

“No regrets. I've always enjoyed weeding and have never regretted a discarded book, filmstrip, VHS video, 3.5" floppy disk, interactive videodisc, or computer that didn't work. What I have regretted is not weeding even more.”

3. Berry III, J. N. (2013). The weeding war. *Library Journal*, 138(18), 10-10. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=91632211&site=ehost-live>

“The root problem is that the majority of people see most books as permanently valuable, and for many that is true. Our personal books don't circulate, so they don't wear out, and even when they do, we hang on to them. Consider how many of us still find shelf space at home for all of our beat-up and tattered college textbooks that we rarely, if ever, consult in later life. In the eyes of much of the population, every book must be maintained, no matter its condition or content.”

4. Booth, A. (2009). *Fahrenheit 451?: A ‘burning question’ on the evidence for book withdrawal* doi:10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00844.x

5. Chase, B. (2006). *It's like pulling weeds* Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=22650814&site=ehost-live>

6. Collier, G. (2010). The reluctant weeder. *Children & Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children*, 8(2), 51-53. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=52829030&site=ehost-live>

“...under the misguided notion that once a book is acquired it should stay at the library until the end of time.”

“There’s a reason we use the term weeding...gardeners do it to get rid of the weeds that hamper the growth of healthy plants. Weeds take up a lot of valuable nutrients that the other plants...could use to thrive. Weeding is love!”

7. Dickinson, G. (2005). Crying over spilled milk. *Library Media Connection*, 23(7), 24-26. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=16599511&site=ehost-live>

“Weeding is a continuous event, and a normal professional responsibility...weeding is just what you do.”

“Remember that you are not asking for forgiveness or permission, but rather informing...of a routine procedure that is part of developing and maintaining an adequate collection.”

“...there are still those who seek to place weeded books anywhere but in the trash.”

“Just as spoiled milk can no longer be considered milk, spoiled information can no longer be counted as books.”
8. Donohue, N. (2008). Nurturing your media. *Library Journal*, 133(19), 32-35. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=35291401&site=ehost-live>
9. Francis, M. (2012). *Weeding the reference collection: A case study of collection management* doi:10.1080/02763877.2011.619458
10. Furor erupts over Chicago weeding program. (2001). *American Libraries*, 32(9), 22. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=5309124&site=ehost-live>
11. Honnold, R. (2006). Get teens active @ your library! *Young Adult Library Services*, 4(4), 18-19. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=21160282&site=ehost-live>
12. Jones, C. (2007). Maintaining a healthy library collection: The need to weed. *Applis*, 20(4), 170-172. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=27617070&site=ehost-live>

“(Data is) a strong indication that the number of items on the shelves is not, in itself, enough to constitute an appealing and highly used collection.”
13. Kessler, J. (2013). Use it or lose it! results of a use study of the print sources in an academic library reference collection. *Reference Librarian*, 54(1), 61-72. doi:10.1080/02763877.2013.738120
14. King, N. (2012). Nice vs. necessary: Reference collections in ARL member libraries. *Reference Librarian*, 53(2), 138-155. doi:10.1080/02763877.2011.607415

“...a strong aversion among librarians to weeding. Possible reasons...include...fear of being considered a censor, fear of criticism from the outside...”
15. Lampasone, L. (2008). A time to weed. *Library Journal*, 133(8), 100-100. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=31750782&site=ehost-live>

“As with spring cleaning, you may resolve to be ruthless but find yourself hesitant and overly sentimental when it comes to decision time. You know that once you get rid of something, you

will have the perfect occasion to use it, whether to answer an unusual reference question or to match those amazing shoes you found at 30 percent off.”

16. Lehman, K. A. (2014). Collection development and management. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 58(3), 169-177. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=97294511&site=ehost-live>

“The argument has been made that libraries spend far too much of their budgets and personnel energy on using the library as a museum when the focus needs to be on the library as a place of creative discovery and service. Others believe that preservation of information (not necessarily in print) is a core value of libraries. Some libraries resist weeding collections because of the public's perception of the library as safe places for materials. The public may view weeding as a threat to their access to information. In reality, a well-maintained, well-pruned collection is far more useful than one filled with out-of-date or unused materials.”

17. Living in the moment. (2013). *Publishers Weekly*, 260(38), 22-23. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=90401114&site=ehost-live>

“...the warehouse is the ghost of libraries past. The library of the future is the make-it-happen library, full of coworking and invention, where we read digitally, librarians teach kids how to use a soldering iron, and the community comes together to learn from one another.”

“I’m not concerned about the few libraries that are making dumb weeding decisions. It’s unfortunate for their communities, but it is hardly an epidemic.”

“Cramming shelves so tight...doesn’t facilitate use, it encourages giving up.”

“Keeping every mystery novel the library has purchased – abdicating our role in shaping a collection – impedes browsing.”

18. Manley, W. (2014). Treasure or trash heap? *American Libraries*, 45(1), 80-80. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=93362391&site=ehost-live>

“Even though futurists (have sounded) the death knell for ... books, ... members of the public freak out when they discover that libraries weed thousands of ...paper... books a year.”

19. Mathews, B. (2010). Weeding grows the garden. *American Libraries*, 41(5), 54-54. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=50379170&site=ehost-live>

“When the library gets rid of those ragged, smudged, damaged, and unattractive rebound books, circulation increases every time.”

20. McCormack, N. (2008). When weeding hits the headlines: How to stop your library from making (that kind of) news. *Felicitier*, 54(6), 277-278. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=36046767&site=ehost-live>

21. MCEWEN, I. (2012). Separating the wheat from the chaff. *Teacher Librarian*, 39(4), 33-34. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=74693678&site=ehost-live>

“...remember, kids like new, shiny things. You're competing with cell phones, iPods, tablets, and flux capacitors here, people. You're not doing yourself any favors by hanging on to books that look like they came from a garage sale.”

22. Moroni, A. E. (2012). Weeding in a digital age. *Library Journal*, 137(15), 26-28. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=80445399&site=ehost-live>

“Getting away from a scorekeeping evaluation of the collection is a good idea. ‘How many ebooks do you have?’ is not a legitimate measure of success. Knowing how the items are used is more valid.”
23. Oder, N. (2007). Weeding puts Fairfax under fire. *Library Journal*, 132(3), 17-18. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=24078662&site=ehost-live>
24. Preschel Kalan, A. (2014). The practical librarian's GUIDE to collection development. *American Libraries*, 45(5), 42-44. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=95830661&site=ehost-live>

“(Weeding) prompts us to think twice before making purchases that potentially have limited customer interest.”
25. Rix, W. (2009). Reference collections and staff: Retaining relevance. *Reference Librarian*, 50(3), 302-305. doi:10.1080/02763870902947109
26. Saricks, J. (2011). At leisure: The lessons of weeding. *Booklist*, 108(1), 43-43. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=65448345&site=ehost-live>
27. Singer, C. A. (2008). Weeding gone wild: Planning and implementing a review of the reference collection. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, 47(3), 256-264. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=32147097&site=ehost-live>
28. Thompson, S. (2008). *Spurning "burning"* Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=31871884&site=ehost-live>
29. Washington, T. (2004). *Weeding* Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=12232664&site=ehost-live>
30. Washington, T. (2007). *Burning with frustration* Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=26559122&site=ehost-live>
31. Willems, H. (2002). I weed flowers, not books: Books I hate to weed. *Library Talk*, 15(1), 19. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=5838758&site=ehost-live>
32. Young, D. J. (2009). Get to effective weeding. *Library Journal*, 134(19), 36-36. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lxh&AN=45253839&site=ehost-live>

“You are not alone. All over the country, books are stacked three high on window sills, Fodor's Yugoslavia 1987 languishes on the shelf, and HVAC systems send out BTUs to heat and cool the broken spines of Harry Potter. This can change.”