Weeders Advisory: Training for Your Library

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WLA Conference 2014
Why We Weed: Book Deselection in Academic Libraries
March 12, 2014 by Joe Hardenbrook
http://mrlibrarydude.wordpress.com/2014/03/12/why-we-weed-book-deselection-in-academic-libraries/
HOW DO YOU GET STAFF FROM HERE...

I don’t have time

Someone might need it...someday

But, they’re books.

It’s just the destruction of public property!

It will leave gaps in collection.

This item doesn’t belong to my library, I can’t weed it!
I purged outdated items.

Our collections are attractive, current, reliable and appealing.

Circulation increased.

I found some gaps while weeding and ordered replacements.

The shelvers are no longer crying in the back room.

I got to know my collection better.
Weeders Advisory
Best Practices
Changing Use Patterns
Electronic Formats
Timberland Regional Library
How I feel when I have to withdraw an amazing book with no circs and order more copies of James Patterson’s lastest book he “co-wrote”
Our Weeding Issues

Emotions:
Fear, Anger, Frustration

Practicalities

Hoardding is Not Collection Development

(thank you, Awful Library Books)
Weeding Push

Encouragement
Emails / Reminders
Visits
Personal Assistance
All Staff Training

System-Wide Decision

Why Train Everyone?

Staff Engagement & Inclusion
TRL “Weeders Advisory”

- Collection Life Cycle
- How
- Why
- Trouble Spots
Barriers

Patrons
Last Copy
Local Interest
Favorites
Not Enough Time
Subjective Opinions
On Condition
Still Useful

Benefits

Up To Date
Create Shelf Space
Displays
Get To Know Collection
Health Of The Collection
Attractive Shelving
TRL “Weeders Advisory”

• Resources & tools available to staff at TRL
• Staff responsibilities
• Staff Weeding FAQs
• Where Does it All Go?
District Impact

More items weeded
Many questions
Improved communication
Training - Best Practices

• The more people the better.
• Do not dismiss the emotions surrounding weeding.
• If you don’t have the tools, create them.
• Make it practical and hands on.
Training - Potential Pitfalls

• Do you have support?
• Do you have Goals & Targets?
• Do you have a plan?
• What is your follow-through?
STAIN
(LOOKS LIKE BLOOD - EW)
"There is little doubt that weeding is controversial, and that is why it must be done with great care, very quietly."

John Berry,
The Weeding War, Blatant Berry Library Journal, November 2013
#bookgate

Urbana Free Library Aggressive Weeding Draws Criticism
  (LIS News, June 14, 2013)
Urbana Free Library Scrutinized Over Book Weeding
  (Illinois Public Media, June 14, 2013)
"Do you ever read any of the books you [weed]?"
  (Smile Politely, June 13, 2013)
Bookgate: When Urbana Free Library Purged Thousands of Books
  (BookRiot, June 21, 2013)
Weeding Woes in the Prairie State
  (Annoyed Librarian, June 19, 2013)
Urbana Free Library patrons express concern over size and speed of book culling
  (The News Gazette, June 19, 2013)
Urbana Free Library executive director to leave after book weeding scandal
  (The Daily Illini, July 15, 2013)
Weeding Best Practices

- Collections Policy
- Goals & Targets
- Collection Standards
- Tools
- Staff Expectations
- Electronic Content
Weeding Best Practices – J/YA

• Juvenile/YA Fiction:
  – Condition (easy)
  – Cover Art
  – Outdated topics
  – Series
  – Classics
What Will Become of the Library? How it will evolve as the world goes digital.

What’s missing from these four pictures of library interiors?

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/design/2014/04/the_future_of_the_library_how_they_ll_evolve_for_the_digital_age.html
Photo by Tom Rossiter from the book Building Ideas: An Architectural Guide to the University of Chicago;
Photo courtesy Bexar Bibliotech/Facebook; Photo courtesy Mitch Altman/Flickr; Photo courtesy Marc Hall/NC State University
“A library without books was once unthinkable. Now it seems almost inevitable.”
Questions

• How can you make this work at your library?

• What are you currently doing at your library that you can share?
Resources

- CREW Weeding Guidelines
- Booklist - Weeding Tips series
- Contact me for TRL Training Outline and handouts (kstorbeck@trl.org)