



Huntsville Public Library

April 2023

Weeding

What is weeding?

The systematic process of evaluating and removing materials from a library collection based on criteria.



Criteria:

Poor physical condition

Containing outdated/irrelevant information

No longer relevant to the community

Standards

CREW Method and MUSTIE

CREW Method

- Continuous Review, Evaluation, and Weeding
- The two primary factors to consider are the age of the material and its circulation/use.
- We typically look at items that have not circulated in the last 3-5 years.
- Just because an item is not circulating does not mean it is automatically weeded.

MUSTIE

M = Misleading—factually inaccurate

U = Ugly – worn beyond mending or rebinding

S = Superseded – by a new edition of/or by a much better book on the subject

T = Trivial – of no discernible literary or scientific merit

I = Irrelevant to the needs and interests of the library's community

E = Elsewhere – the material is easily obtainable from another library

HPL Policy

- D. Deselection of Materials

In order to maintain a vital, current collection which meets the needs of our community, evaluation and examination of materials is an ongoing process. Deselection of materials is based on the accepted professional practice outlined in The CREW Method: Evaluating and Weeding Collections in Small and Medium-sized Public Libraries and the professional judgment of the City Librarian or designated staff. Materials no longer suitable for Library use will be withdrawn from the collection. This may include materials that are:

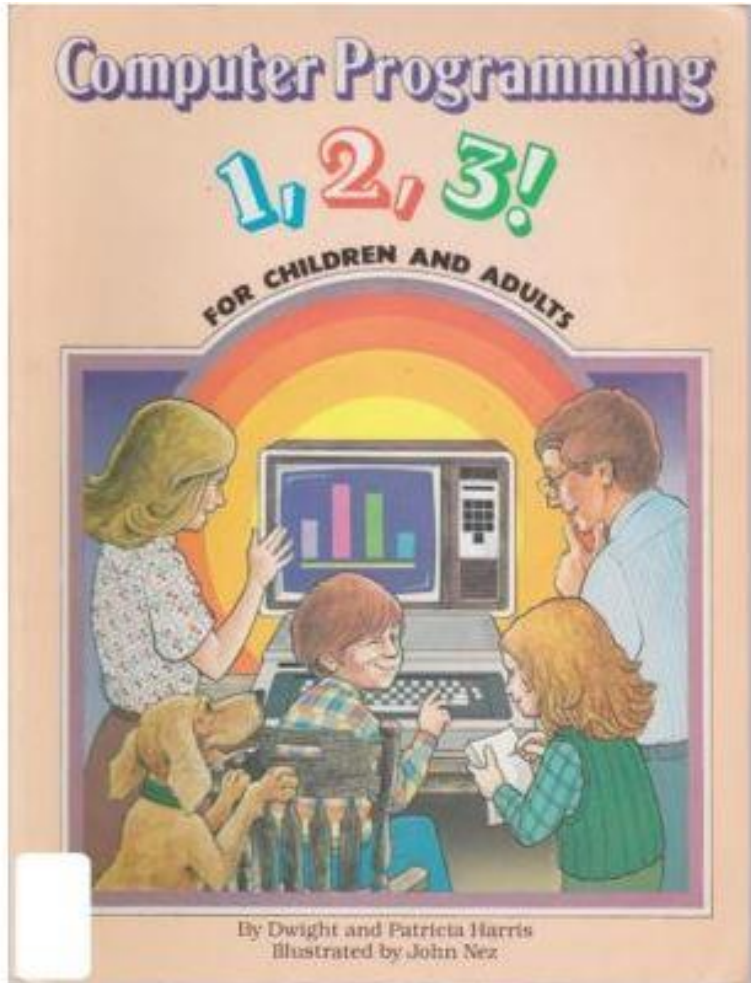
1. Obsolete or outdated
2. Worn beyond use
3. Damaged
4. No longer circulating or used for reference purposes; or
5. Multiple copies of a formerly popular title.

Materials which are removed from the collection will be discarded according to Federal, State and City guidelines. Items removed because they are not circulating, are duplicates or because they are no longer of use in the collection will be sold at auction or donated to another government entity. Items removed because they are damaged or worn beyond use, out of date, aged, no longer relevant, or factually inaccurate will be discarded.

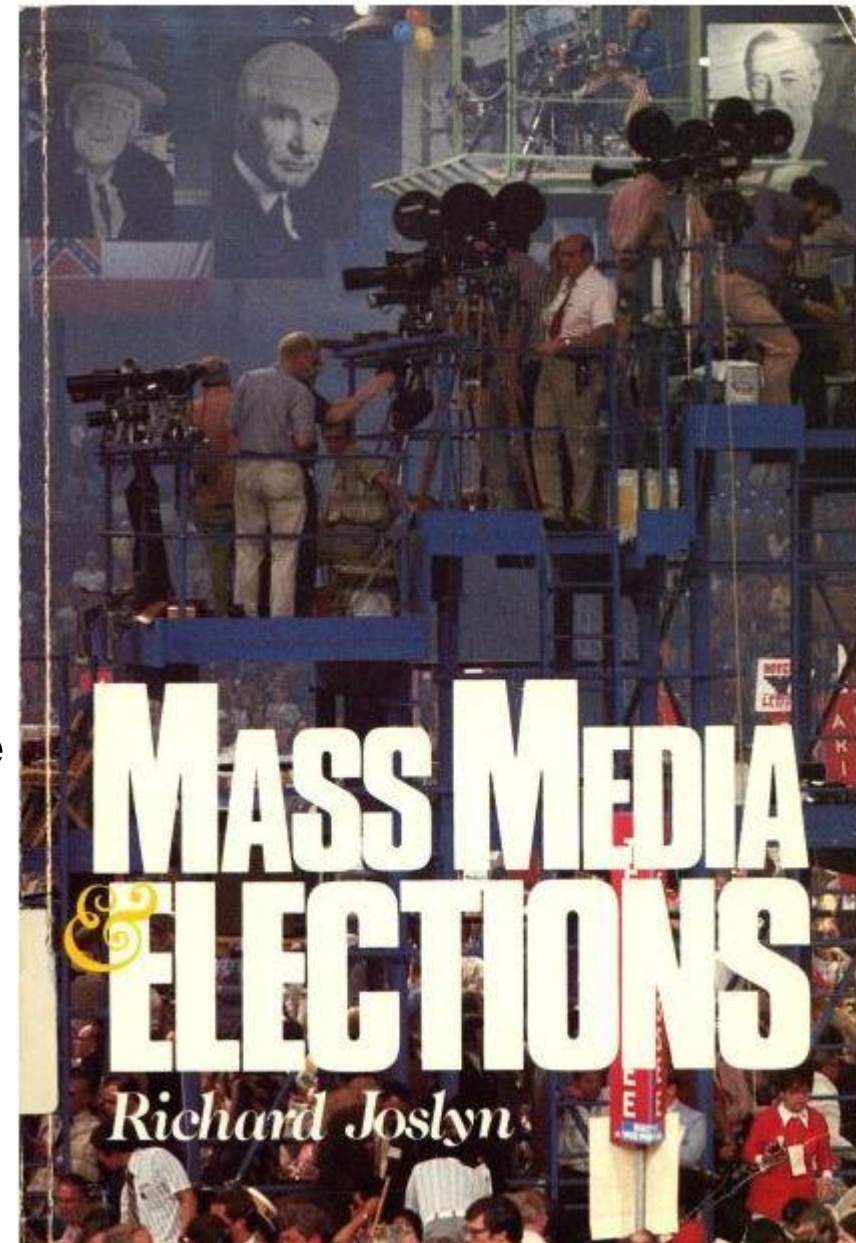
Why do we weed?

Weeding is an essential element of collection development that ensures the library's materials are relevant and accessible. It is a continual evaluation of resources intended to remove items that are no longer useful from the collection.

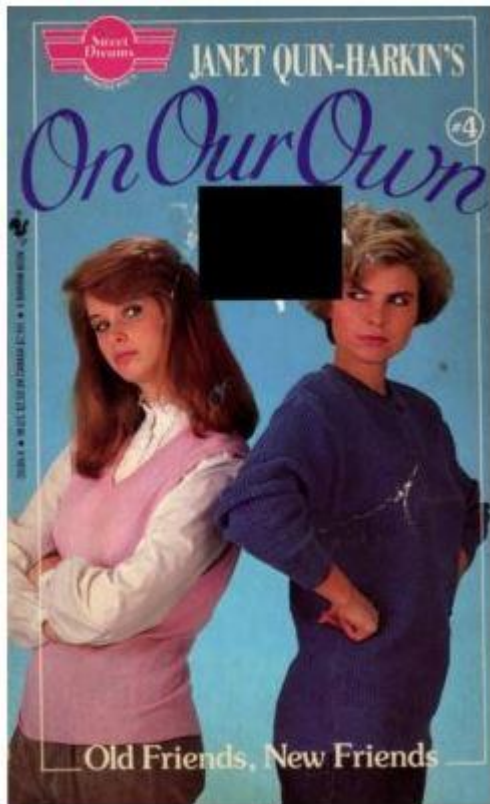
Samples from other libraries



These books provided useful information when they were originally published. However, technology has advanced, and we can purchase more up-to-date titles when we need.



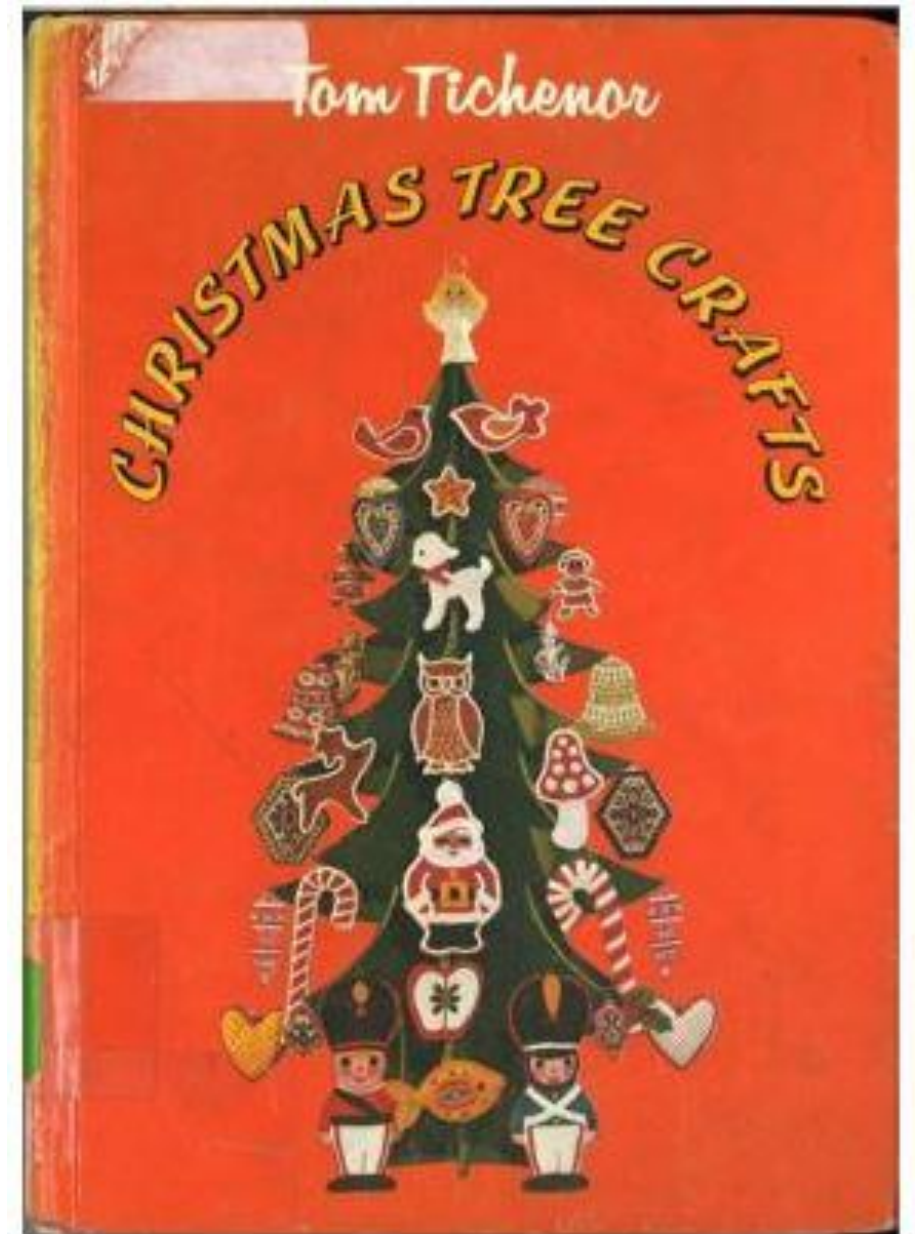
Samples from other libraries



These books had not circulated in several years.

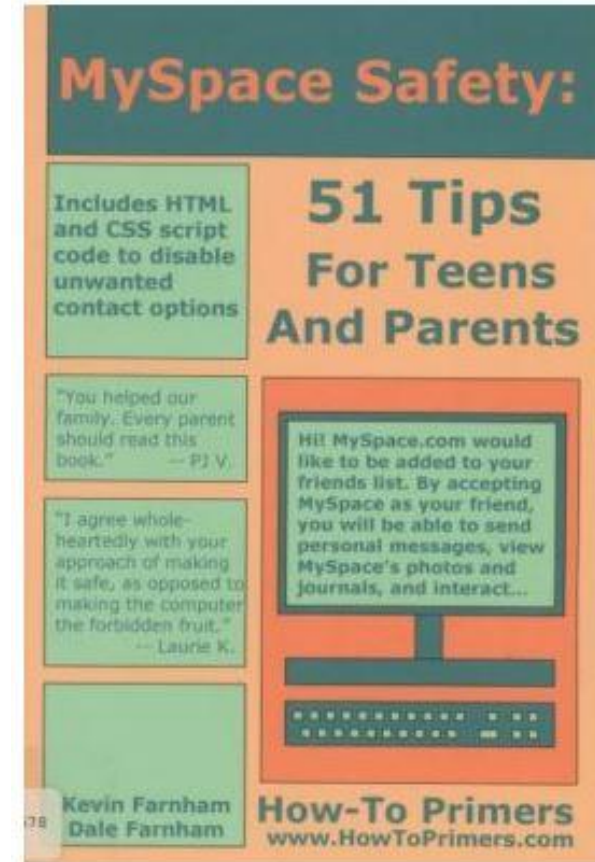
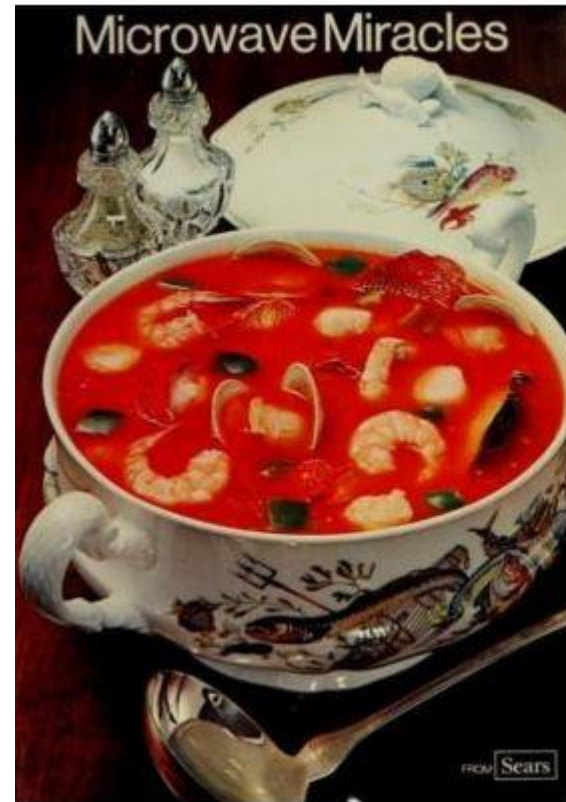
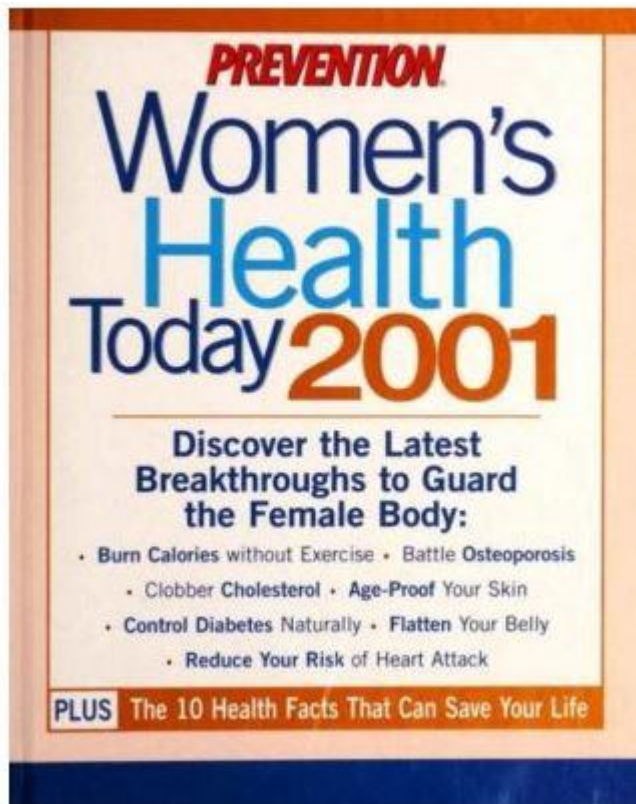
If a patron wanted a book on Christmas tree crafts after the item was weeded, we could:

- 1) select a new title to order
- 2) procure the item through ILL
- 3) help the patron find an online resource



Samples from other libraries

New information is discovered. Hobbies, fads, trends come and go.



Benefits of weeding

When libraries consistently weed, patrons are able to find materials more easily.

Removing outdated or worn-out items makes the collection more visually attractive and more inviting to users.

Patrons trust the library to supply information that is easy to find and up to date.

Benefits of weeding

Weeding allows us to see gaps in the collection so we know what we need to order.

Paradoxically, weeding is a good way to increase circulation by drawing attention to materials that had previously been overlooked. Circulation increases when collections are weeded appropriately!

Benefits of weeding

Weeding a shelf ensures that shelves do not become overloaded. A loosely packed shelf is more attractive and functional than a full shelf. A library that does not weed will run out of shelf space for new materials.

People do not want to handle books that are “grubby.” Weeding helps us replace much-loved books with replacements that are in better condition.

Plans for the future

Our last library-wide weed was in approximately 2017.

During the pandemic closures, we weeded a few manageable sections in the library.

It has been difficult to weed as the City policy requires that weeded materials be sent to the City Auction. The City did not have substantial storage space for this.

Recently, LS&S presented options beyond the auction for discarded materials. We are in the process of gathering these options and will make a recommendation for consideration.

With Board approval, we plan to complete a significant library-wide weeding in April and then plan to continue regular weeding upkeep each month.