

Harlan Community Library
Collection Maintenance and Weeding Policy

(Updated 02/13/2023)

Weeding the library's collection is an essential part of a library's collection development and maintenance; it helps to ensure a current and useful collection.

The Importance of Weeding

- To maintain a current, accurate and useful collection;
- To make the best use of space;
- To improve the appearance, appeal and browsability of the collection;
- To check for materials that need repair or replacement;

State Library Weeding Requirements

According to the State Library, the following guidelines must be met to qualify for Enrich Iowa funding:

- Three percent or more of the collection is withdrawn each year.
- Every item in the library's collection is evaluated for retention, replacement, or withdrawal at least every three years to determine its usefulness according to the library's collection development policy.
- Three percent or more of the collection is added each year.

Using the CREW Method

Our library will use the **CREW** (Continuous **R**eview, **E**valuation and **W**eeding) method for assisting the library director and staff in maintaining a collection of material that is well balanced and fits with the mission of the Harlan Community Library. CREW is a system that is used by many libraries across the state to help them determine what to keep in their collections and when to remove items to make room for new material. The follow sections of this policy come from the CREW manual.

Benefits of Weeding

The library has limited space and needs to be able to provide a balanced collection of material. A good practice is to keep our shelves 75-85% full in order to allow for the addition of new materials and help our patrons better find the items they are looking for. We also want our collection to be appealing to the eye. Books that are ragged, smudged or have unattractive rebinds are not pleasing to the eye and can deter the community from using the library. We also want our collection to contain material that is up to date in order to maintain its reputation for reliability. We want our collection to meet the needs of our specific community. So we will regularly evaluate the needs of our patrons and make collection decisions that mirror their needs.

General Weeding Guidelines

- The goal is to weed approximately about the same amount of materials that is added to the collection each year.
- Weed items that have poor content, poor appearance and unused materials.

- The library staff who are involved in the development of the collection are the staff who should decide what materials are weeded. Other library staff may assist in various parts of the process.

Staff Review

After items have been pulled from the shelves based on the general guidelines for weeding using this policy, there must be a Staff Review process. This part of weeding is very important to ensure that each potential weeded item undergoes a rigorous review before being completely removed from the library's system.

- Items that have not circulated in 3 years will be reviewed for a disposition decision. The review needs to be conducted by the library director, the Collection Librarian and one other staff person who has regular responsibility over the maintenance of the material.
- The review will look at such things as: does the item get used in house, is the item a candidate for inclusion in displays that could bring it back into circulation, would it benefit from being cataloged to a more appropriate location or is the item of importance to the community/region.
- The review will also keep in mind the Three Part Formula as described in the CREW system.
- All three staff members will provide their thoughts on the importance of the material to the collection and the library director will make the final decision based on the staff review.

Weeding Evaluation Criteria

- Children's Collection
 - Juvenile Fiction
 - Popular interest is the primary criteria.
 - Weed duplicate copies of past best sellers if circulation is down beginning with the most worn.
 - Consider discarding older fiction especially when it has not circulated in the past 2-3 years.
 - Replace worn editions of classics and award winners only if they are still in demand and can be replaced with attractive new editions.
 - Young Adult Fiction
 - Paperbacks are preferred.
 - Anything older than 5 years should be kept only if circulating well; classics should be replaced with new hardback or paperback editions.
 - Picture Books
 - Content should be evaluated on the merit of the stories and illustrations.
 - Outdated or trendy characters should be withdrawn as soon as popularity drops off.
 - Replace worn copies of classics and perennial favorites.
 - Nonfiction

- Use the same general criteria for each area that is provided in the CREW Guidelines by Dewey Class, being especially attentive to weeding material that has not been used in several years or has been superseded by new editions.
 - Other Considerations
 - Series Books
 - Replace low-quality series with newer editions of series favorites. If keeping a series, it is best practice to keep the beginning books of the series, weed the middle of the series and then keep the latest books in the series.
 - Older Titles
 - Replace older titles with newer ones that are more up to date unless still being read. If the books are worn, replace with newer additions if available.
 - Older Editions
 - Replace worn books with newer editions.
 - Geography
 - Titles more than five years old are misleading and inaccurate and should be pulled.
 - Science, Medicine, Interventions
 - Review and update every 5 years. Items more than 10 years old should almost always be discarded.
 - Textbooks
 - Discard unless there is a high demand in our area.
- Reference Collection
 - Almanacs
 - Update annually, with older editions transferred to the circulating collection and then discarded the next year.
 - Regional almanacs may be retained for historic research, depending on the needs of the community.
 - Dictionaries
 - Unabridged and general desk dictionaries should be updated regularly.
 - Biographical dictionaries that focus on a specific period of time can be retained indefinitely.
 - Foreign language dictionaries should be retained until a new edition is available.

- Directories
 - Discard when newer versions arrive.
 - City directories and local telephone books, which are useful for genealogical research, keep indefinitely as space permits.
- Atlases
 - Are usually revised every 5 years and should be updated when revised.
- Handbooks
 - Should be updated when new editions are released.
 - Resources that deal with health issues must be replaced as soon as a new edition is available.
- Legal Forms and Information
 - Review annually for new editions and keep only current copies.
- Non print Materials
 - DVD's
 - Remove when items are no longer circulating (ideal to eliminate if items have not circulated in the last year).
 - Replace/remove damaged items.
 - CD's
 - Remove music CD's when items are no longer circulating.
 - Weed audiobooks that have not circulated in the past 2 years should be considered for discarding.
- Fiction
 - Circulation is the primary factor for weeding fiction.
- Graphic Novels
 - Circulation is an important factor but the exception would be classics or milestone titles.
- Periodicals
 - Many magazines are available on line in full text. Keep current calendar year and one previous calendar year. Local, regional and state periodicals consider for indefinite collection.
- Local History
 - Retain ALL books on the history and geography of the city and county unless worn and not repairable. Keep local city directories. Keep MOST books by local authors and genealogies of local important families.

Dewey Areas of Collection

- Start by looking at items that have not circulated in the last 3 years. A report should include the author, title, barcode number, date of publication, last date of circulation and the number of copies.
 - A three part formula is used as a rule of thumb based on opinions in the professional literature and practical experience.
 - The first figure refers to the years since the book's latest copyright date (age of material in the book);
 - The second figure refers to the maximum permissible time without usage (in terms of years since its last recorded circulation and assuming that the time has been in the library's collection for at least that period of time) *Exceptions to this factor are related mainly to items with local history value.*
 - The third refers to the presence of various negative factors, called MUSTIE factors, which will influence weeding decision.
 - M=**Misleading** and/or factually misleading
 - U=**Ugly** worn and beyond mending or rebinding
 - S=**Superseded** by a truly new edition or by a much better book on the subject
 - T=**Trivial** of no discernible literacy or scientific merit
 - I=**Irrelevant** to the needs and interest of the community
 - E=the material or information may be obtained expeditiously **Elsewhere** through interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing or in electronic format.
 - If any one of the three parts of the formula is not applicable to a specific subject, the category is filled with an X
 - **See the Overview Chart of CREW Formulas for the formula that corresponds to each area in the Dewey System.**

Disposing of Weeded Library Materials:

Items that were purchased for the library with tax payer dollars cannot be donated. They can either be resold for "fair market value" or recycled/destroyed.

Items that were donated or purchased with donated monies can either be donated to another not-for-profit, sold or recycled/destroyed. Remove any donation plaques when weeding donated materials.

Further Weeding Resources

For more information on specific areas of the collection, see CREW: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX. 2012.

Material for this policy was borrowed from CREW: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX. 2012 and the State Library of Iowa webpage.

Overview Chart of CREW Formulas

Dewey Class

CREW Formula

Dewey Class

CREW Formula

000	
004	3/X/MUSTIE
010	10/3/MUSTIE
020	10/3/MUSTIE
030	5/X/MUSTIE
Other 000s	5/X/MUSTIE
101	15/5/MUSTIE
133	10/3/MUSTIE
150	10/3/MUSTIE
160	10/3/MUSTIE
170	10/3/MUSTIE
200	10/3/MUSTIE or 5/3/MUSTIE
306	5/2/MUSTIE
310	2/X/MUSTIE
320	5/3/MUSTIE
323	5/3/MUSTIE
330	3/3/MUSTIE
340	5/2/MUSTIE
350	5/3/MUSTIE
360	5/3/MUSTIE
370	10/3/MUSTIE
390 - 394	10/3/MUSTIE
395	5/3/MUSTIE
398	X/3/MUSTIE
400	10/3/MUSTIE
500	5/3/MUSTIE
507	10/3/MUSTIE
510	10/3/MUSTIE
520	5/3/MUSTIE
550	X/3/MUSTIE
560	5/2/MUSTIE
570	7/3/MUSTIE
580	10/3/MUSTIE

610	5/3/MUSTIE
629	X/2/MUSTIE
630	5/3/MUSTIE
635	10/3/MUSTIE
636	5/2/MUSTIE
640	5/3/MUSTIE
649	5/3/MUSTIE
670	10/3/MUSTIE
700	
709	X/3/MUSTIE
720	X/3/MUSTIE
737	5/3/MUSTIE
740	X/3/MUSTIE
770	5/3/MUSTIE
791	10/2/MUSTIE
793 - 796	10/3/MUSTIE
800	X/3/MUSTIE
910	3/2/MUSTIE
Personal Travel Narratives	5/2/MUSTIE
930 - 999	10/3/MUSTIE
92, 920 or B	X/3/MUSTIE
F (Fiction)	X/2/MUSTIE
Graphic Novels	X/1/MUSTIE
E (Easy Readers/ Picture Books)	X/2/MUSTIE
JF (Juvenile Fiction)	X/2/MUSTIE
YA Fiction (Teen Fiction)	3/2/MUSTIE
J and YA Non-fiction	Use adult criteria (and review children's general criteria)
Periodicals/ Newspapers	3/X/X
Government Documents	3/2/X
Local History	X/X/X
Nonprint	WORST
Film Formats	2/1/WORST
Audio Formats	X/2/X