**Weed 'Em and Reap: Getting Your Collection from Awful to Awesome**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/weed-em-and-reap.html>

Reap the benefits of a well-weeded collection! This session will discuss the life cycle of a collection, including weeding techniques, collection management policies, and how to motivate reluctant weeders. Join co-authors of the popular blog Awful Library Books to learn their holistic approach to collection management as they help all types and sizes of libraries find the joy in a shelf list that reflects a clean, relevant, and current collection!

Presented by: Mary Kelly, Digital Services and Emerging Technologies Librarian, and Holly Hibner, Adult Services Coordinator, at the Plymouth District Library (MI), co-creators of Awful Library Books, and co-authors of “Making a Collection Count: A Holistic Approach to Library Collection Management.”

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Setting the Weeding Stage: Your Collection Development Policy** |
| Reflect on your library’s **collection development policy**. In what ways does the policy connect the library’s mission and goals to its collection? How do you reflect your library’s commitment to stewarding a well-weeded collection in the policy? What could you clarify or update in your current collection development policy to better connect to your library’s mission and goals? |

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| **The Collection Life Cycle** |
| **Consider the collection life cycle** as it relates to your library. Follow a title from selection to weeding in your library’s collection. Describe the departments, the staff members, and the processes associated with each stage of the life cycle. For your example, look at a title that is ready to be weeded. * Who selected it, and when?
* How did it move from ordering to processing and cataloging to shelving?
* How many times was it used?
* Has it ever been repaired?

As you track the item through each stage of the life cycle, consider your library’s current approach to weeding. * What has worked well in terms of process?
* Where is there room for improvement?
* How has it changed over the years?
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| **Making Metric Matter** |
| What collection reports are available through your library’s ILS? How can you **combine various metrics**, like total circulations, date last circulated, and publication date to get the full story of an item in the collection? |
| **Deeper Dive with a Scenario** |
| Use this **scenario** to work through the life cycle process and examine your weeding process.You’ve been asked to weed 20% of the adult fiction collection to make room for a new Makerspace. In a collection of 30,000 items, 20% amounts to 6,000 items – a large weeding project! Draft an outline for a weeding plan for this project. Make sure to include: * Weeding criteria
* Weeding and discard processes
* Talking points for staff and patrons
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| **Action Plan: (include next steps, when, who, etc.)** |

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