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

Holly Hibner and Mary Kelly
awfullibrarybooks.net
Does your collection help meet your mission?
Are you proud of your collection?
Collection Life Cycle

- Selection
  - Weed or Replace
  - Repair & Maintenance
  - Re-Shelving
  - Checkout (Use)
- Acquisitions
- Processing & Cataloging
- Shelving
Collection Management Policy

IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access

- General Selection Criteria
- Genres, Formats, Collections
- Cooperatives & Resource Sharing
- Preservation, Conservation, Maintenance
- Weeding Efforts
- Holds to Copies Ratio
Management = Control & Attention
Development = Growth
"A good library is like a good haircut. It's not what you cut – it's what you leave."

Anne Felix, Grand Prairie (TX) Public Library System
http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/crewmeth08.pdf
Libraries are not in the business of collecting “things,” but providing content and access to content.
...But the public doesn't "get" it!
What are people supposed to think?
Ongoing & Continuous

Make collection management part of your daily, weekly, or monthly routines.
How to weed continuously

1. Set up automated reports in your ILS
2. Use the help available to you
3. Give some items another chance
4. Walk the stacks
...But it's historical

Why President Richard Nixon Should Be Impeached
American Civil Liberties Union
1973
...But someone might need it

McCall's Giant Golden Make-It Book
John Peter
1953
...But I don't have time
Why We Weed

Getting Fired
Tarrant
1974
Why We Weed

Kiplinger’s Sure Ways to Cut Your Taxes
McCormally
1991
Rites of Passage at $100,000+

Lucht
1995
...But it's in good shape

Your Home and You
Greer and Gibbs
1960
...But there's so much to weed!
Weeding Made Easy

Step 1: Duplicates
Weeding Made Easy

Step 2: Condition
Weeding Made Easy
Step 3: Stupid
Weeding Made Easy

Step 4: Reports

Reports are not a substitution for physically interacting with the collection.
Censorship vs. Weeding
Formal Challenges

- Have a form
- ...but resist the urge to go straight to it
- Listen to the patron! Help the patron!
- Get help from ALA and EveryLibrary.com
Everything is Connected
Keep or Weed?

Be Bold with Bananas
Banana Control Board
1970
Keep or Weed?

Atomic Bombing
Davis, Ed
1950
Curl up in a ball as you hit the ground. Put your hands (and arms, if they are bare) against your stomach, and dunk your face into your chest. If you can shade all exposed areas of your skin, you are far less liable to be burned.

Stay in a ball for ten seconds. Both the heat and the blast wave will pass over you in that time. Then, if you can, stand up. You will be among the survivors—provided you can move fast enough to avoid falling rubble and fire.

If the explosion catches you one step from a tree-trunk or doorway, you can take that step and crouch with your back to the light. But if a possible shelter is two or three or four steps away, don't try to make it. You won't have time.

After the crucial ten seconds, the fronts of brick buildings may be crashing into the street. Your safest move will be to press yourself tightly against the nearest wall—preferably the wall of a concrete building, for concrete will not strip away like brick. In this position, also, cornices and broken glass from above will fall out beyond you.

Should the giant flash come when you are indoors, dive for the floor with your back to the window and crawl beneath or behind the nearest table, desk or counter. Anything between you and the window will stop not only the heat rays but also the jagged bullets of broken glass. The blast will be followed by wind of hurricane force; stay away from all windows for
RESCUE WORKERS

Rescue workers might well be called the skilled workers of civil defense. It is not a matter of just clawing away at falling rubble until you get to a trapped person. Rescue work calls for high discipline and technique. It is obvious, for instance, that clumsy clawing away at rubble might bring more rubble down upon the rescue worker and further block the avenues of escape for the trapped victims.

If and when an A-bomb comes, thousands of trained and skilled rescue workers will be needed. You will have the opportunity to train for this difficult but rewarding assignment.

The government is hoping that at least 20,000,000 of us will take first aid courses. Except for the minority of casualties who will have radiation sickness, the larger number will be injured in familiar ways—burned, hit by falling masonry, in shock. Elementary treatment of these everyone should know.

Rescue workers will have to know first aid and stretcher bearing.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Rescue workers particularly will have to know first aid and stretcher bearing. Another job for you in which first aid will be particularly important is driving an ambulance.

The British have the appropriate word for everything. One section of their civil defense corps organization is called "pioneers." In a sense on which the British probably never figured, the word is apt.

Pioneer workers will be the first to clear the way for the new beginning of living after an A-bomb attack. Whatever we call them, they will be one of the most important parts of our American volunteer civil defense effort.

Pioneers will clear away the debris and rubble left by an attack; they will plant the explosives which destroy unsafe

Uninjured persons who may have come in contact with radioactive materials should thoroughly scrub themselves.
How to Live in Your Van and Love It
Poteet
1976
Keep or Weed?

Hotline: The Letters I Get…and Write!
Reynolds
1972
Keep or Weed?

The Computer from A to Z
Kalman
1999
Love in Suburbia
Conway
1964
Keep or Weed?

Fashion Cats
Iwasa
2011
Prince Henry's Coat, Hat, and Frilled Shirt

The hat comes with blond curls. The fluffy white feather on top blows gently in the wind. Hey, make sure you don't chew that feather! The hat is perched on top of the cat's head without covering the ears. The coat is a vivid violet color, while the frills and golden lacing add elegance to the smart attire. The frilled shirt is decorated with full-bodied pleated lace, rose buds, and gold roses. Wait, is that your tongue sticking out?! My Prince Kataro, you mustn't lick your face like that!
Thank you!

@awfullibbooks

submit@awfullibrarybooks.net

awfullibrarybooks.net