

Weed 'em and Reap

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The Basics: Why Weed?

- De-selection is just as important as selection
 - Usability of collection
 - Discoverability of useful resources
 - Credibility of information
 - Visually appealing materials
 - Space
 - Know your collection's strengths and weaknesses

The Basics: Who Weeds?

All Libraries Should !!!

The Basics: What to weed?

- Just as certain collection development decisions are individual to the Selector, so are weeding decisions.
- Generally, we use the following tools:
 - Statistics Lists
 - Personal and professional knowledge of the collection
 - MUSTIE Criteria:
 - M = Misleading (and/or factually inaccurate)
 - 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 - S = Superseded (by a truly new edition or by a much better book on the subject)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 literary or scientific merit; usually of ephemeral interest at some time in the past)
 - I = Irrelevant to the needs and interests of your community
 - E = may be obtained expeditiously Elsewhere through interlibrary loan

General CREW Guidelines for Weeding

- **Poor Content:** outdated and obsolete information, trivial subject matter, mediocre writing style, inaccurate or false information, duplicates, superseded, etc.
- **Poor Appearance:** worn out and ragged, poorly bound, dirty, scratched media, dated dust jackets, yellow/brittle/torn pages, water damaged, etc.
- **Unused Materials:** low to no circ stats, duplicates, materials that were hot topics but are no longer, more books than are needed on a subject, etc.

CREW Checklist of Weeding Factors

- **Date**—when was the item published? When was it added to the collection?
- **Author**—is the author still read or likely to be read in the future? Is the book a lesser work?
- **Publisher**—was the book self-published or published by an ‘instant’ press that may not have taken care in editing and printing?
- **Physical condition**—are there any factors that make the item unattractive?
- **Additional copies**—are more copies available that may be in better condition?
- **Other books on the same subject in the collection**—if this book is discarded, what else is available?
- **Expense of replacement**—can the item be replaced? Was this an expensive item that might benefit from rebinding or refurbishing rather than replacement?
- **Shelf-time**—how long has the item sat on the shelf without circulating?
- **Relevance of the subject to the community**—is the material of interest to anyone in the community?

Quick Thoughts on What to Weed

- low-circulation weeding list
- Duplicate materials weeding list
- Age of collection weeding list

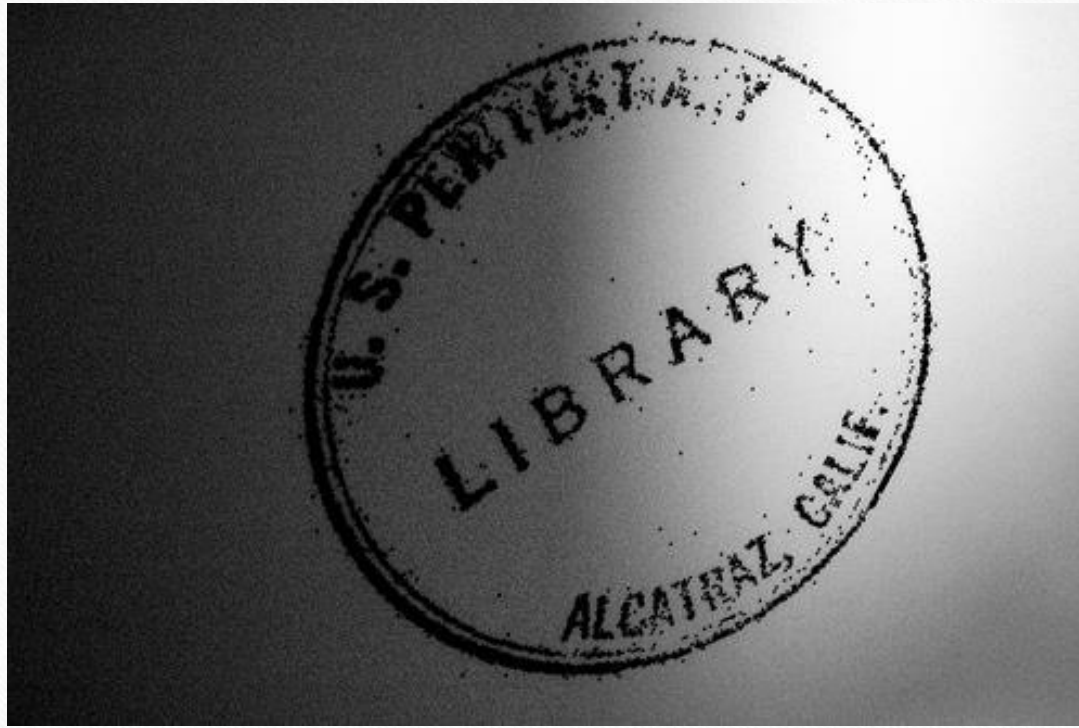
The Details: Outline of Steps

- Step 1: Pull items off shelf
- Step 2: physical processing
- Step 3: Collect statistics on the items leaving the collection (optional but encouraged)
- Step 4: Determine which items need OCLC holdings removed (optional of OCLC lending libraries)
- Step 5: Delete the items

Step 1: Pull items



Step 2: Physical Processing



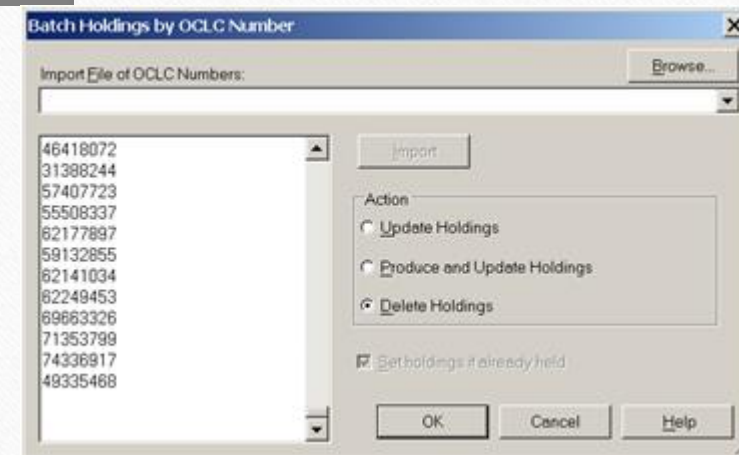
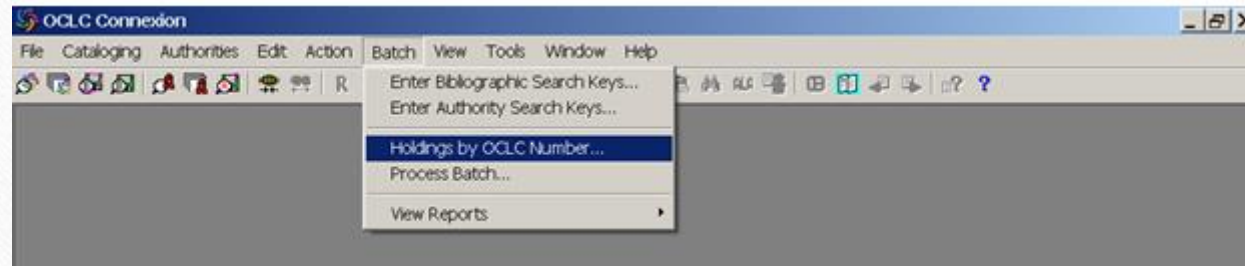
Step 3: Collect Statistics



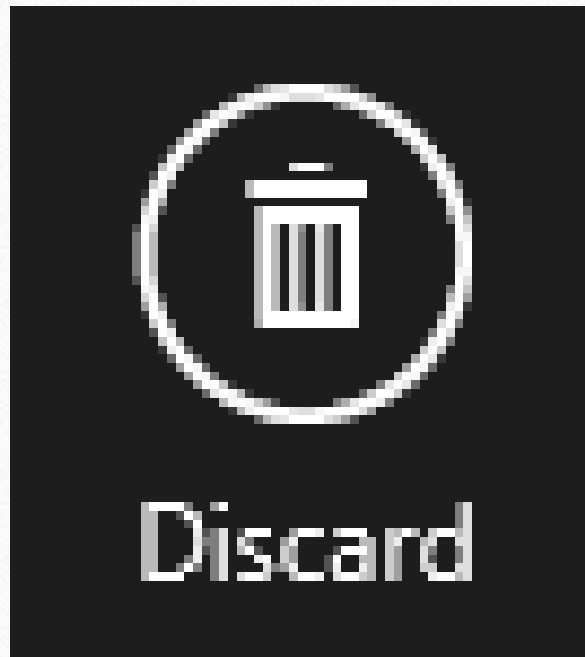
Step 4: OCLC Holdings (optional)

1. If you are an OCLC ILL lending library, you will want to remove your holdings in OCLC
2. To do so in batch:
 - OCLC Connexion, go to Batch → Holdings by OCLC Number → Delete holdings → copy and paste OCLC numbers into the text field

OCLC Connexion



Step 5: Delete Items



Recap/Conclusion

- Weeding is necessary for a useful collection.
- Since all other collection decisions are typically made by Selectors/Librarians, as should weeding decisions.
- Weeding requires:
 1. the physical removal of materials from the shelf,
 2. a place to send the removed materials,
 3. removal of items from the system,
 4. tracking of the materials removed for statistics,
 5. and removal of holdings in OCLC.

Question?



Sources

- Larson, J. (2012). *CREW: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Retrieved August 5, 2015.