

What happens to weeded materials?

A small number of resources that are weeded from the library collection may be offered to another area of the school or to another school in the WRDSB.

When an item is weeded because;

- a newer edition is available,
- it has not been in demand and has not circulated or been used for a significant period of time,
- the content no longer aligns with curriculum,
- a target student population has moved from the school (i.e., French Immersion) or the grade range of the school has changed, the resource may be offered to another area in the school or another site within the board, if other current selection criteria are met.

When an item is weeded because;

- its content is outdated, inaccurate or irrelevant,
- its content can no longer be supported by selection criteria,
- it is worn or damaged beyond repair, the resource may not be offered to another area of the school or another site within the board. These discarded materials are recycled.

Donating Used Books to Outside Agencies

The donation of resources weeded from the school library collection or from other areas of the school is not recommended.

- ✓ If information is outdated or inaccurate or the resource is in poor condition, it is not appropriate for our children, nor is it appropriate for any other children.
- ✓ Materials selected for our schools may not meet the needs of children from other cultures in terms of language or cultural appropriateness.
- ✓ Most book donation charities are unwilling to accept used or discarded books.
- ✓ Charities often prefer donations of new books, or cash donations that can be used to select resources most appropriate for the needs of the receiving community.

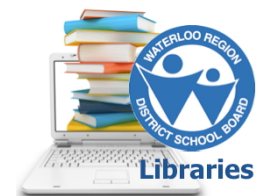
Weeding School Library Collections



One of the truest of gardening sayings is that you have to be cruel to be kind.

If things are left to overgrow, they look out of shape, scale and control.

B. Davis



library.wrdsb.ca

What is weeding?

Weeding is the removal of library resources that no longer meet the principles and criteria for selection expressed in the WRDSB guideline document, *Selection of Educational Resources*.

Secondary teacher-librarians and elementary digital literacy support teachers (DLST) continually re-assess the relevance of resources in the library collection, selecting new resources and de-selecting (weeding) resources that no longer meet criteria.

This continuous renewal cycle applies to all library resources in all formats – print, electronic and multimedia.

Weeding is the act of reevaluating items in the collection and removing any that are inaccurate, out of date, misleading, inappropriate, unused, in poor condition, or otherwise harmful to students. It is something all librarians and library media specialists must do regularly if they want to maintain the best possible collections for their school communities. It is a professional responsibility that cannot be taken lightly.

Baubach & Miller (2006). *Less is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections*.

Why weed?

Weeding ensures that:

- ✓ The collection adheres to criteria in the WRDSB guideline document, *Selection of Educational Resources*
- ✓ The collection is accurate, current and relevant
- ✓ The collection appears refreshed, making it more appealing to developing readers and researchers, increasing circulation
- ✓ Current and reliable resources are easier to locate
- ✓ All resources in general are easier to locate
- ✓ Potential damage to resources because of over-crowded shelves is minimized
- ✓ The teacher-librarian or DLST can make an accurate assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the collection through gap analysis and address areas of need accordingly

Some areas of the collection become outdated more rapidly than others and require more frequent weeding. Science resources, for example, require particular scrutiny because of the fast rate of change in knowledge in this area.

Principles of Weeding

A resource should be weeded if:

- ✓ Its content is outdated, inaccurate or irrelevant
- ✓ Its content can no longer be supported by selection criteria
- ✓ Its content no longer supports the curriculum
- ✓ It is worn or damaged beyond repair
- ✓ The medium becomes obsolete and/or the equipment required to use it becomes obsolete or unavailable (e.g., filmstrips, floppy discs, VHS tapes etc.)
- ✓ A newer edition has been purchased
- ✓ It has not been in demand and has not circulated or been used for a significant period of time
- ✓ The targeted audience of the resource is no longer part of the school population, for example, if French immersion is no longer offered in a school or if the grade range within a school changes