

Weeding Project: Overview



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Outline

- Rationale
- The Weeding Consideration
- Steps of the Weeding
- Criteria of Evaluation
- The first section weeded
- Result
- Major & Minor Issues
- Recommendations

Weeding: Rationale

- The Weeding is a deselection process that consists of the removal of library materials that are no longer useful, no longer appropriate, or rarely used in the physical collection of a library.
- The process requires an evaluation of individual library materials based on established weeding criteria, deciding whether to retain or discard each item, and implementing that decision.
- The Weeding is an essential component of any collection development plan to maintain a fresh collection that meets the needs of students and the community.
- It is a necessary process of library management that results in a more accessible and current collection, making it easier for users to navigate.

M6L Weeding

- The library's collection has undergone periodic weeding over time, it has never undergone a systematic review to align with the evolving curriculum and new AUI learning developments **since 1995**.
- The library **has seen significant** growth in both its collection size:
 - Maintain a dynamic physical collection
 - Give access to countless texts online

Project start: Academic Year 2021- 2022 (Summer)

Project end: Academic Year 2023- 2024 (Spring)

The weeding : Consideration

- **Improve the physical appearance**
 - Improve visibility of useful materials in the collection
 - Reduce overcrowding on the shelves
 - Make space for newly purchased items
 - Make the best use of floor and shelf space
 - Increase circulation
- **Improve quality of content**
 - Current materials
 - Physical quality
 - Relevance

Weeding: Steps

1. Research:

Researched how other academic and non-academic libraries conducted weeding, and the different techniques that existed.

2. Training:

Invited to the M6L a library science weeding professional

3. Weeding Policy:

- Provide guidelines in the deselection of materials
- Provide basis for decision- making
- Commit Staff to activity
- Outline a schedule for the activity.

Weeding : Criteria

Usage/Age	Value/Relevance	Deteriorating Materials
Frequency of circulation	Language: English is a priority, followed by French and Arabic	Badly worn or damaged
Date of publication	Uniqueness of Subject matter	Moldy or water damaged.
Outdated content or no longer informative	Availability/ Uniqueness of Subject matter	Duplicate items in the same format
Newer editions	Appropriateness to research needs of AUI Faculty & Students	

Weeding Criteria :Exception

- Regional materials covering local, regional, or national value
- Books written by AUI faculty members
- Classics in their field
- Core materials in each discipline
- Literary classics

Steps of Weeding (1/2):

- **“Create List” of sections**

- a. Extract the inventory list from the Sierra System
- b. Include number of checkouts for later evaluation

- **Conduct inventory**

- a. Scan item and mark it in the list, preferably with a chosen color (suggestion: Yellow)
- b. Add items that are not in the list
- c. Insert note in the list if item is damaged

- **Send the list** to professors to help us with evaluation the list

Steps of the weeding (2/2):

Proceed to removal of item from the shelf

- Scan item
- Insert note on system
- Stamp item (“Deselected” or “Withdrawn” stamp)

Place in boxes or carts

- Keep track of which items are in which boxes to facilitate locating them
- Store boxes in numerical order in C&A

Code of Colors

Keeping: Yellow

Damaged items: Insert note in sheet

Irrelevant: Light Purple

Available online: Red & Insert note

Outdated: Red

Not used: Orange

Example:

A	B	C	D	E
BARCODE	TITLE	PUBLICATION INFO	COMMENTS	WEEDING CRITERIA
3001000040904L	Recensement général de la population et de l'habitat de 1	Rabat : Direction de la Statistique, 1996		DATA AVAILABLE ONLINE
3001000087162S	The new encyclopedia Britannica.	Chicago IL : Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1995.		REQUESTED BY INSTRUCTOR
3001000045462P	Al-Quran. INTERPRETATION ENGL	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia : Maktaba Dar-Us-Salam, 1994.		KEEPING
3002000100131B	The BBI dictionary of English word combinations / compile	Amsterdam ; Philadelphia : John Benjamins Pub. Co., c1997.		OUTDATED
3001000072046N	The A-Z encyclopedia of serial killers / Harold Schechter ar	New York : Pocket Books, c1996.		IRRELEVANT
3001000087371U	The Middle East and North Africa, 1997.	London : Europa Publications, c1996.	DAMAGED	KEEPING
3001000000676N	John Updike : a bibliography, 1967-1993 / compiled by Jac	Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 1994.		NOT USED

Example : Academic Journals (2021-2022)

- Served as a first experience to keep downsizing the physical collection of the library.
- Very difficult to work with
- Composed of **8000 items** (estimated)
- **Weeding criteria:**
 - Not all bound journals were circulating in the library
 - The location of the journals was not controlled
 - Faculty didn't show a special interest in them
 - Most of the journals can be found online or through our databases

Weeding Project: Result

	Total books	Books weeded	% of books weeded
History (Asia& Africa)	1174	151	12.86
Social Sciences	10873	3006	27,64%
Political Sciences	699	194	27,75%
Law	635	254	40%
Education	350	182	52%
Arts	352	70	19,88%
Language & Literature	10938	1390	12,70
Science	6888	442	6.42
Medicine	384	221	57.55
Agriculture	150	55	36.67
Technology	830	184	22.17
Military	108	56	51.85
Naval	12	10	83.33
Bibliography, Library Science	526	180	34.22
	67072	12375	18.45%

Major/ Minor issues

- **Lack of Collaboration: Some Faculty**
 - **Time Constraints:** Faculty often have heavy teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities, leaving them with little time to participate in additional project
 - **Perceived Importance:** Some faculty might not see the weeding project as a priority compared to their other duties or might not understand its impact on the library's effectiveness.
 - **Emotional Attachment:** Professors can have emotional or intellectual attachments to certain books or materials, making them reluctant to see these resources remove
 - **Concerns about Academic Freedom:** Faculty might be concerned that weeding certain materials could limit academic freedom and the diversity of perspectives available to students and researchers.

Major/ Minor issues

- **Lack of Storage Solutions:** Limited storage options complicated the process of relocating the weeded materials.
- **Insufficient Staffing:** Limited staff resources slowed down the weeding process, making it difficult to manage efficiently as staff struggled to keep up with both weeding and their regular duties
- **Technological Constraints:** insufficient library management systems made it difficult to track and manage the inventory effectively.
- **Coordination Issues:** Organizing meetings and ensuring all group members are available and on the same page was challenging and time-consuming.

Recommendations

Addressing these issues through:

- Clearing communication
- Establishing the value of the project.
- Ensuring effective library management system.
- Involving faculty & librarians meaningfully.

Can help improve collaboration in future weeding projects.

Thank you

