CULTIVATING YOUR LIBRARY COLLECTION

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What do you think of...

When you hear the words,

“We are going to weed the collection?”
What if I told you...

1) Your library doesn’t have an unlimited amount of space
2) Your library doesn’t have an unlimited amount of money
3) The community has entrusted you with building the best collection for them

4) The library has never been about books!
There’s a reason it’s a gardening metaphor

You gotta get your hands dirty

The ‘weeds’ can choke out the rest of your collection

Needs to be done often

Will help your collection ‘garden’ thrive
It’s a cycle... The CREW method

Continuous Review Evaluation and Weeding
Why Weed?
Using data...

Circulation
Dead on Arrival
ROI
Dusty Books
Schools/Curriculums
Demographics
Evaluation – Content

Is the material...

Inaccurate / Outdated

No longer popular / duplicate

Updated material readily available

Biased / Racist / Sexist, etc...

Media outdated with no available equipment
Evaluation - Condition

Is the material...

- Falling apart
- Yellowed
- Binding worn
- Better format available
- Dated
Evaluation - Community

Is the material ...

A hot topic

Part of school curriculum

On the best seller lists

Old fad

Reflective of your current community
Now to the hard part...
Keep it positive

Or
Or

YOU CAN’T BUY HAPPINESS
BUT YOU CAN BUY BOOKS
AND THAT’S KIND OF THE SAME THING
But what about...?

Classics
Older materials for reference
High Use
Duplicates
Programmatic Materials
Remember…

We are not the Library of Congress!
Who does it better?
What to do with weeded material?

“In need of some love” or “Hidden Gems” shelves

Policy

Local / State Laws

Book Sales (In house vs. company)

Disposal Services

Donate

Recycle

Programs / Maker Spaces
Continuous Review

Keep It Small Silly
QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Thank you!