Collection Management:
Benefits of a Well-Maintained Collection

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REMOVING ITEMS: LOVE IT OR HATE IT?
DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Increase comfort level with key pieces of collection maintenance
2. Shared understanding of the importance of maintaining the collection to keep it appealing to the community
3. Feeling empowered to be involved in an ongoing maintenance cycle
BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY COLLECTION

• Aesthetically more pleasing
• Increased circulation and use
• Shows respect for your library community
• Items that you are proud to share with patrons across the state
“A good library collection is like a good haircut. It’s not what you cut—it’s what you leave.”

- Anne Felix, Grand Prairie (Texas) Public Library System
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR COLLECTION?
COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

• Library collections should be healthy, living things
• Circulating collection should not serve as archive or warehouse
• Items should be vital, relevant, useful
• Quality v. quantity
• It’s everyone’s job!
CREW METHOD

- **CREW** = Continuous Review, Evaluation, Weeding
- Created by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in 1976

- **M** = Misleading
- **U** = Ugly
- **S** = Superseded
- **T** = Trivial
- **I** = Irrelevant
- **E** = Material or info may be obtained Elsewhere
HOW CAN YOU ACTIVELY MAINTAIN A COLLECTION ON A DAILY BASIS?

• Item check-in
• Item check-out
• Shelving items
• Pulling holds
REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

SOME OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS BOOK IS OUT OF DATE
WEED vs. REPAIR vs. REPLACE
“Overboard” by Sara Paretsky, published in 2022
“World War II at Sea: A Global History” by Craig Symonds, published 2018
“Little World: On the Beach” Board Book, published 2020
“The School of Mirrors” by Eva Stachniak, published 2022
“My First Counting Book” published 1957
REMOVING ITEMS: LOVE IT OR HATE IT?
Connecting. Energizing. Inspiring.
Services for libraries throughout Colorado.