

Do you have a Weeding Policy? Some ideas to consider:

Copyright: a clue to look more carefully at the content of your books

Content: look for relevance to the needs and state curriculum *as well as staff requests and student interests*

Physical condition: look for ease of repair. Is there sufficient time and staff to complete repairs?

Number of circulations including last circulation. *Is the book used for research but rarely circulated?*

Superseded: is there newer information available?

Look for MUSTY Books

M Misleading Books can go out of date more rapidly in, as an example, subject areas related to technology as opposed to mythology. Look for “dated” popular fiction, obsolete information, even books containing racial, cultural, or sexual stereotyping.

U Ugly Refers to the physical condition of the book.: antiquated appearance, worn-out, frayed, or dirty; books that you are unable to mend

S Superseded There may be newer copies available. Check for unnecessary duplicate copies. Look for almanacs, yearbooks, or encyclopedias superseded by newer editions. Look for illustrations or photography that are “dated.”

T Trivial Look for appropriateness for the collection. Check for poor writing, inaccurate information, an inappropriate interest or reading level for students.

Y Your collection has no use for the book. It is irrelevant to your curriculum.

“Musty” phrase coined by the American Library Association in cooperation with the Texas State Library, 1976

CONSIDER KEEPING:

Classics, award winners

Local History

Annuals & School Publications

Titles on current reading lists

Out of print titles that are still useful

Biographical Sources