



Winnipeg Public Library Weeding Statement

Winnipeg Public Library provides a wide variety of materials to foster the individual pursuit of knowledge and enhance the cultural, economic, and intellectual vitality of the community.

The Library regularly weeds its collections so that materials remain current, accurate, and useful to the community.

Knowledgeable staff decides when unused items, unnecessary duplicates, and outdated, worn, or damaged materials are to be removed from the collections. The same evaluation process used to select materials is also used to weed them. The weeding process creates a more accessible and inviting collection, with increased turnover and use.

Why does the Library weed its collections?

Weeding is done to:

- Create a collection which reflects current and anticipated community needs
- Remove outdated, inaccurate, and duplicate materials from the collection
- Remove worn or unused materials from the collection
- Ensure that the collection is attractively displayed
- Utilize the available space in the library

What factors does the Library consider?

Factors considered when weeding materials include, but are not limited to:

- Frequency of circulation and use
- Poor condition
- Inaccurate or outdated information
- Number of copies in the collection
- Availability of copies in other locations
- Local and historical significance
- Relevance to the needs and interests of the community and current demand
- Availability of other material on the subject

Collectability or rarity is not a major component of the Library's collection responsibility.

Does the Library Replace Weeded Materials?

Withdrawn or missing materials are not automatically replaced. In general, replacements are purchased following the general collections criteria. Several additional criteria are considered:

- Importance of the title to the collection
- Extent of the present library collection on the subject
- Availability of new titles on the subject
- Historical value of the material
- Indexing or listing in a standard library tool
- Public interest in the subject

What Happens to Weeded Materials?

In general, discarded materials and donated materials not added to the collection are sold in a book sale, donated to non-profit organizations, or if unsuitable for sale or donation, sent to recycling. Book sale profits are used to purchase new materials.