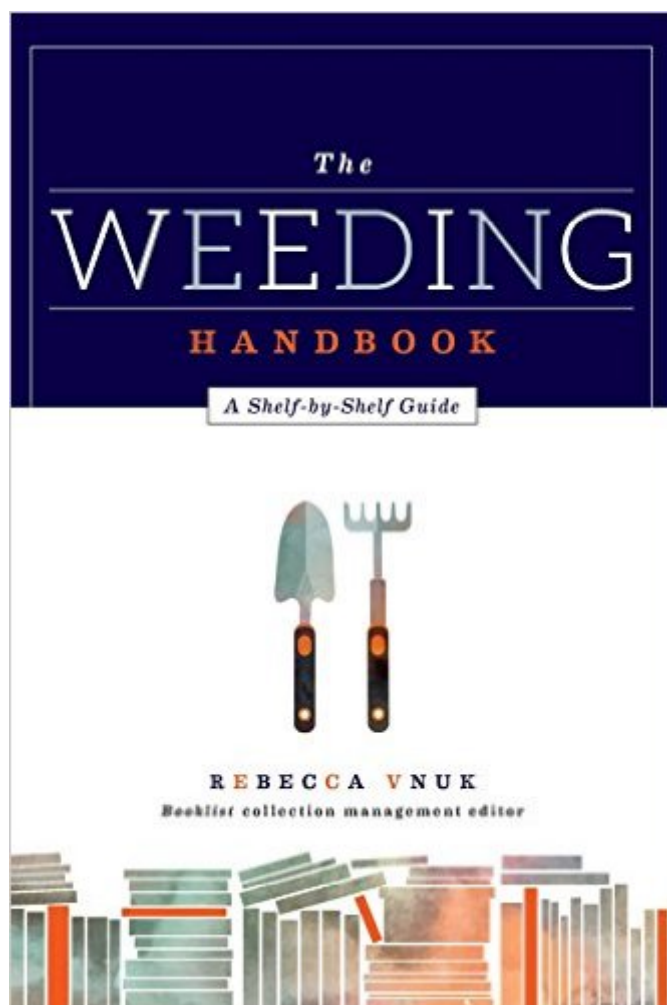


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# The Weeding Handbook: A Shelf-by-Shelf Guide



## Synopsis

No! We can't rid of that! Vnuk, author of the popular Weeding Tips column on Booklist Online, is here to show you that yes, you can. A library is an ever-changing organism; when done the right way, weeding helps a library thrive by focusing its resources on those parts of the collection that are the most useful to its users. Her handbook takes the guesswork out of this delicate but necessary process, giving public and school library staff the knowledge and the confidence to effectively weed any collection, of any size. Going through the proverbial stacks shelf by shelf, Vnuk explains why weeding is important for a healthy library, demonstrating that a vibrant collection leads to robust circulation, which in turn affects library budgets. Walks readers through a library's shelves by Dewey area, with recommended weeding criteria and call-outs in each area for the different considerations of large collections and smaller collections. Features a chapter addressing reference, media, magazines and newspapers, e-books, and other special materials. Shows how a solid collection development plan uses weeding as an ongoing process, making it less stressful and more productive. Offers guidance for determining how to delegate responsibility for weeding, plus pointers for getting experienced staff on board. Gives advice for educating the community about the process, how to head off PR disasters, and what to do with weeded materials. Includes a dozen sample collection development plans, easily adaptable to suit a library's individual needs. Filled with field-tested, no-nonsense strategies, this handbook will enable libraries to bloom by maintaining a collection that users actually use.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read this book while in a class on collection development while working on my MLIS degree. This was so very helpful during that time! Rebecca writes clearly and precisely, laying out both the hows and the whys of weeding in libraries. I felt that this book made an excellent argument for the necessity of weeding and provided concrete examples on how and what to weed that work for any library.

Rebecca Vnuk is THE library world's expert on weeding and collection development. In this textbook, she walks you through the collection in Dewey order explaining best practices for weeding. She discusses why weeding is an important part of collection development and how it is not just about throwing out books. There are also sections on how to educate your community in preparation for any large weeding project. But where this book excels is in when Vnuk discusses the importance of having a formal collection development plan. With one, you will never be forced into a major weeding project again, and your collections will be more responsive to your community all of the time. She even includes easily adaptable plans that you can implement in your library ASAP. A solid collection development plan saves you and your tax payers time and money while giving them the best collection possible.

I bought this to add to my professional collection. I am a school librarian and I am always looking for practical weeding information. This book is good on theory and I like that there are sample collection development plans in the Appendix. From a school library point of view the book is light on actual practical guidance from the school librarian's perspective. A better choice for school librarians would be *Less is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections* by Donna Baumbach and Linda Miller.

Both seasoned library staff and those new to collection development will find this book incredibly useful in guiding their weeding efforts, particularly those taking place in public libraries (although many of the suggested guidelines can be tailored for academic institutions or special libraries). Unlike many information science books that seem out of touch with the day-to-day realities of library work, this is rooted in practical, relevant information. Plus it's breezy to boot! I particularly appreciated the suggestions on how to get reluctant staff, administrators, board members and

patrons on the weeding bandwagon, and the many examples of weeding and collection guidelines of other libraries.

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