

## **Weeding the Collection**

Books from this library are rather new since the library is only six years old. Currently, titles have only been weeded due to disrepair. Thus, I had to spend a lot of prep time with the sports section in order to create weeding criteria. For one thing, this section is not directly affected by the curriculum since the physical activities classes do not use the library. Thus, there is no guideline or need of material from the teachers. I started with the general best practice of weeding sports books and sought books with outdated statistics and areas where students are no longer interested (Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 2012). After analyzing this section by looking at all 304 titles, I felt evaluating only on date can become complicated with sports books. Older sports material could be viewed as historical information if the data is still correct for the time. In fact, many of the sports books in this collection are historical. It is not simple to eliminate a sporting subject based on number of times checked out. For example, a book on equestrian sports has never been checked out, but a book about showing your horse has been checked out 11 times. This shows that weeding based on checkout quantity might not provide accurate results for removing a sporting subject. The students could be interested in the subject but not that specific title. Therefore, I knew a survey would assist in weeding material as well as developing the collection.

I came up with several weeding criteria. I would select books to evaluate for weeding with a copyright date of 2006 or earlier because this would make the material at least seven years old. The exception is the historical sports information since the material is old by design. I would evaluate aged material based on its intent to contain current information and number of checkout times including the last used date. That would allow exceptions for old titles that are still popular with the students. For example, *Sports Illustrated for Kids Year in Sports 2007* would be weeded

because it is six years old and has not been checked out in many years. The book *BMX Racing* copyright date of 2005 would not be weeded even though it references famous pros that have been retired or removed from the sport for many years because the book was checked out recently. Another example is the book *Football in the SEC*. It was published to contain current coaches and players. This book is five years old and it is about college football. The team members mentioned in the book have all graduated making the information outdated. I believe this type of sports book should be weeded especially since it has not been checked out in several years.

I ran a report in Alexandria to select books with the call number of 796-799.3 and the publication year of 1900 to 2007. This report had 85 titles. I first would have weeded ten books because they have never been checked out since the school was opened. I would eliminate 35 books from weeding because the information was historical and the books are often checked out. Next, I would have weeded books that have not been checked out in three years. I found 12 books in that group. Of these, I would keep one title because it is a history book on a team that the six graders want to read based on the survey. This will make room for current information and it does not eliminate books that the students said they were interested in reading. For example, books on snowboarding and snow skiing were weeded and this fit the results of the survey. The students did not express any interest in these sports and not surprising, these books have never been checked out.

### **Part III: Selecting Items for the Collection**

Weeding the sports books gave me perspective on selecting new material. I felt it might be better not to collect books that focus on statistics or team members because the information will be quickly outdated. In addition, this material might be covered less expensively with magazines or online. I also read a short article on sports collection development that was very helpful. Lempke (2011) described my experience of weeding sports books in that the information becomes outdated quickly. She recommended trying to develop a collection using series that help students play the sport rather than details on teams (Lempki 2011). When it comes to nonfiction titles, Mrs. Johnson recommended selecting low-level reading books because some students that read nonfiction do not want to read detailed information. She likes a large reading range of nonfiction titles. I made sure the wish list had books with a lower AR level but looked as if it would appeal to middle school students.

I consulted with the students via a short survey. I surveyed the six grade students because they would be in the school for two more years so their input on new purchases would be more valuable. I surveyed 230 students with three questions. The first question was if they read sports books. Then I asked them to list three sports and then three teams. I did not think it would be helpful to ask the students for specific titles because I think they might not know. I had to make the survey very short so the teachers would not mind it taking classroom time. I did explain, to the students, that the information would be used in the media center to select books they are interested in reading. Unfortunately, there were many absent due to spring break so I only received 158 surveys. Of the surveys returned 76 said they like to read sports material. Eighty-two said they do not read sports material. Over 20 students in that group that does not read sports

material did not even like sports or watching teams play. The students that did not read sports but enjoyed sports mainly were interested in football, baseball, and basketball. A few had other interests like hunting. These books are in the current collection. I gathered all the information on teams as well as sports that reflected student interest. I used this information to evaluate the collection to see if there were sports and teams that students indicated but are not in the library. These students favorite sport is football and basketball and the collection has many of these books. The second favorite sport is soccer tied with baseball then hockey and lacrosse. There are other sports listed but I found that most of these have titles in the collection. However, the collection does not have any books on hockey or gymnastics. It does not have much on the Olympics games or lacrosse. I was able to focus my wish list on sports not in the current collection, to improve their game, and some lower level reading material. For ease of readability, the wish list is provided in the excel spreadsheet along with a citation reference.

## References

- Amelia Bloomer Project. (2011). Amelia bloomer project 2011 top 10 list. Retrieved from <http://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/2011/01/11/amelia-bloomer-project-top-10-for-2011/>
- Best Books for Kids & Teens. (2011) Sports: For sports enthusiasts ages 6 – 13. *Best books for Kids & Teens*, 52.
- Booklist. (2008).Editors' Choice: Books for Youth, 2007. Retrieved from <http://www.booklistonline.com/Booklist-Editors-Choice-Books-for-Youth-2007/pid=2408648>
- Chipman, I. (2012). Top 10 sports books for youth: 2012. Booklist. Retrieved from <http://www.booklistonline.com/Top-10-Sports-Books-for-Youth-2012-Ian-Chipman/pid=5626494>
- Chipman, I. (2011). Top ten sports books for youth: 2011. *Booklist*, 108 (1), 106.
- Christolon, Blair. (2010). *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from <http://vufind.uhls.org/vufind/Record/807885/Reviews#tabnav>
- Dare, K. (2012). For the love of the game: Sports. *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from [http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/supplements/seriesmadesimple/894046-363/for\\_the\\_love\\_of\\_the.html.csp](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/supplements/seriesmadesimple/894046-363/for_the_love_of_the.html.csp)
- Jones, P. & Hartman, M. (2006). Core collection: Sports books for reluctant teen readers. *Booklist*, 103(1), 120.
- Kraus, D. (2011). *Booklist*, 108 (1), 106.

- Kohlbeck, K. (2011). [A review of the book *Score! The action and artistry of hockey's magnificent moment*]. *School Library Journal*, 57 (4), 194.
- Lempke, S. D. (2011). *Booklist*, 108(3), 58-59.
- Media Source. (2012). *School Library Journal Review*. Retrieved from <http://vufind.uhls.org/vufind/Record/909168/Reviews#tabnav>
- Morning, T. (2010). *Booklist*. Retrieved from <http://vufind.uhls.org/vufind/Record/909170/Reviews>
- Taniguchi, M. (2012) *Library Journal*. Retrieved from <http://vufind.uhls.org/vufind/Record/923440/Reviews#tabnav>
- Texas State Library and Archives Commission. (2012). *Crew: A weeding manual for modern libraries*. Retrieved from <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/sites/default/files/public/tslac/ld/ld/pubs/crew/crewmethod12.pdf>
- Toor, R. & Weisburg, H. (2007). *New on the job: A school library media specialist's guide to success*, Chicago, IL: American Library Association.
- Weisman, K. (n.d.) *Booklist*. Retrieved from <http://vufind.uhls.org/vufind/Record/236508/Reviews#tabnav>
- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). (2013). *Quick pick for reluctant young adult readers*. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklists/quickpicks/annotations/06qp>
- Zvirin, S. (2007). *Booklist*. Retrieved from <http://vufind.uhls.org/vufind/Record/691811/Reviews#tabnav>