

Spring Cleaning @ your library®

Many articles in this volume of *SLM* have stressed needed changes that allow school libraries to evolve and stay current while meeting the learning needs of students. Outdated resources, tools, and policies must go in order to keep school libraries viable and moving forward in the 21st-century learning environment. So, it seems timely to encourage school librarians to conduct program spring cleaning with weeding tips!

Weeding Options: Including and Going Beyond the Book Collection

- ▶ Start spring cleaning with a review of the school library mission statement. Is it student and learning centered? Does it “require students to be critical thinkers, adept problems solvers, and fluent and respectful communicators” (Zmuda, *SLMAM* 2007, 24-26). Does it reflect the mission of the school? Is it focused on student achievement?
- ▶ Check out Allison Zmuda’s article “Six Steps to Saving Your School Library Program” (*SLM*, February 2011, pages 45-48) and the accompanying rubric, “Taking Action: Saving School Libraries.” This is a great way to start weeding policies.
- ▶ Critique the school library Web presence. How easy is it to find the school library on the school Web site? How does the Web presence reflect the mission of the school library? Get ideas at “Resources for School Librarians: Writing School Library Web Pages (<http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/resf/wpages.html>). Consider a Wiki or a blog instead of a Web site. Weed the old and update all.
- ▶ Weed the collection. Create a plan for collection development. Use curriculum mapping to assist in the process of collection development and weeding (see books by Heidi Hayes Jacobs). See a list of weeding tips on the *SLM* blog (<http://bit.ly/slm-weeding>). See ALA’s Weeding Library Collections (<http://tiny.cc/enipp>) or eHow for weeding tips (<http://tinyurl.com/67vubkr>).
- ▶ Don’t forget technology weeding. Get rid of unused, dust-catching equipment. Clean up and organize equipment currently in use. Assess what is needed and create a wish list. Have a technology plan.

Pick and choose weeding goals from the most necessary to that which can wait. Create a long-term plan and follow through—working through the weeding list to a better program. Involve others and keep administrators informed.



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