



January 4, 2018

The Oregon Library Association (OLA) and the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) support the Salem Public Library's work to refresh their collection via the practice of deselection, or weeding. Deselection of materials is essential for growing strong libraries and strong communities. It provides a means for bringing different items to the forefront for circulation, opening space to allow for the addition of new materials, refreshing existing collections, and renewing interest in the collection as a whole.

All libraries are encouraged to include deselection of materials as part of their collection development policies, so they can maintain vibrant collections that meet the current information needs of the community. Collection development policies are driven by many factors, including, but not limited to, budget, popular interest, circulation statistics, space and community needs. Professional resources outline the many factors to be considered when materials are reviewed, such as the physical condition of the item, out of date or inaccurate information, lack of usage, popular demand, and community interest.

Moreover, public libraries are required to have a collection development policy in order to meet the minimum standards set forth in the Oregon Public Library Standards developed by the Public Library Division (PLD) of OLA.

OLA and OIF support the practice of individual libraries, as directed by their advisory boards and governing bodies, to create and actively use collection development policies. The Salem Public Library is committed to providing a broad and diverse collection, and its collection development activities are guided by their board approved collection development policy. Every library collection, including the Salem Public Library's collection, needs ongoing change, whether that means repairing items, moving items for better access to other materials, or removing and updating outdated materials. All libraries are growing organisms that require continual evaluation of their collections in order to maintain optimal usefulness and to assure the best utilization of library space and resources for the benefit of its community.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Esther Moberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "g" at the end.

Esther Moberg, President
Oregon Library Association

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Deborah Caldwell Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Deborah Caldwell Stone, Interim Director
Office for Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

