

## **COLLEGE LIBRARIES AND GENERAL PRACTICE OF WEEDING OF PRINT COLLECTIONS: A CASE STUDY**

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**Abstract:** *This paper is a case study of policy and practice followed at academic college library for weeding the old & damaged or obsolete library print collections. The paper endeavours to highlight the barriers and the need of weeding in the library. It discusses the criteria used to weed the collections in the academic college library as a case study of Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya, Pune. This study is going to be very fruitful for those library professionals who wish to undertake weeding of their collections to make them updated and clear.*

**Keywords:** *Weeding, Library Collection, Collection Management*

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### **Introduction:**

To weed is to separate or cut from the main source. In library terms Weeding is one of the main and very important aspect just like a Gardner who weed outs unwanted things to make garden more beautiful. As per the Ranganathan's one of the five law- 'Library is a growing organism', it must be maintained. Weeding is writing off the from the existing collection which is not in use or not usable further.

Academic libraries include traditional colleges, universities, schools etc. In this paper authors have focused on their own working library experiences and practices. Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya, established in 1960, is one of the attempts of the A.B.M.S. Parishad to take education to the masses. It is one of the several educational units of the A.B.M.S. Parishad spread all over Maharashtra. The college has a separate library building established since its inception. It has very rich (55000 Books and 70 journals), bound volumes and rare collection of books and periodicals.

### **Review of Literature:**

**Few articles and books are referred to know more about Weeding out practices in Libraries are as below-**

Uma and Suseela (2013) explains the importance of weeding in university libraries. Necessity of weeding is highlighted in order to keep collection up to date and in providing greater accessibility to the users. Stole (1975) in his book, is of opinion that there are two types of weeding library collections. one is "core collection" (which will satisfy 95 to 99% of

the demands upon the present collection) and a “weedable” part (which represents very little potential use). Dilevko and Gottlieb (2003) discusses public libraries and weeding out highlighting circulation, physical condition and accuracy of information. Dubicki (2008) provide opinion on how librarians face fear while weeding academic collections and offers suggestions as how to build confidence among faculty.

**Objectives:**

1. To know old, unused, mutilated library collection
2. To make the updated collection for providing greater accessibility solutions to the users.
3. To create space for the new collection acquired by the library
4. To provide a reference to other academic libraries through this paper

**Need of weeding and its barriers:**

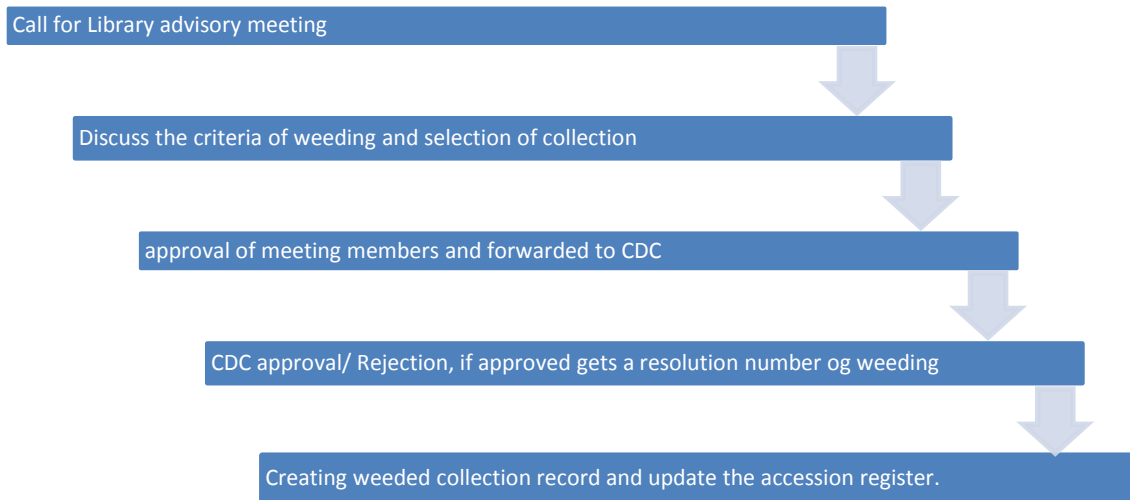
1. Print collection of library is increased a lot with more of text book collection.
2. Improve circulation and efficiency;
3. Saves the time of the students and teachers (users) along with library staff;
4. Keeps collection live and current
5. Makes library appealing and spacious
6. Removal of duplicate unused and obsolete collection.

**Weeding policy in Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya Pune:**

Central Library of Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya has rich and rare collection of books hence it’s weeding of library collection is a challenging task. Library uses Vriddhi Commercial Library software for automation. The weeded-out collection is entered in vriddhi software later.

Maharashtra University Act 1994 and latest on of 2016 provides guideline to universities regarding construction of various committees and its functions. Universities adhering to this act provides guideline to its affiliated colleges and accordingly colleges perform its regular functions, duties and responsibilities. The Library Advisory Committee and College Development Committee (CDC) are important in order to take decisions regarding Library collection weeding policy. The recommendation of faculties and student representatives along with library staff lists out the weeding collection. It is primarily put in front of Library Advisory Committee for finalisation, once it’s finalised its again send for the CDC approval.

The pictorial procedure is as follows-

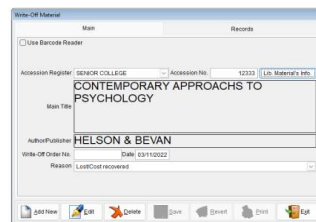


**Figure 1: Steps to weed out**

Central library of Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya until now has weeded out its one fourth collection of text books due to

- change in syllabus and outdated collection
- Reference books such as taxation subject which updates every year
- Old collection including torn out pages, missing pages etc.

VREDDH Version 2 - A Campus Management System (Library Module) [A.Y.: 2022-2023] (Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya)



**Figure 2 Vreddhi software weed out**

The library has 6 sub departmental library collection, the few texts are stored in central library and others are given to departmental library for reference. Vreddhi software has feature of creating separate weed out/ write off collection, and the weed out record reports are generated separately.

