

Weed 'Em and Weep! Hoarding is Not Collection Management

Holly Hibner

Plymouth District Library

hhibner@plymouthlibrary.org

<http://awfullibrarybooks.net>

Twitter: @hhibner

<http://slideshare.net/hhibner>

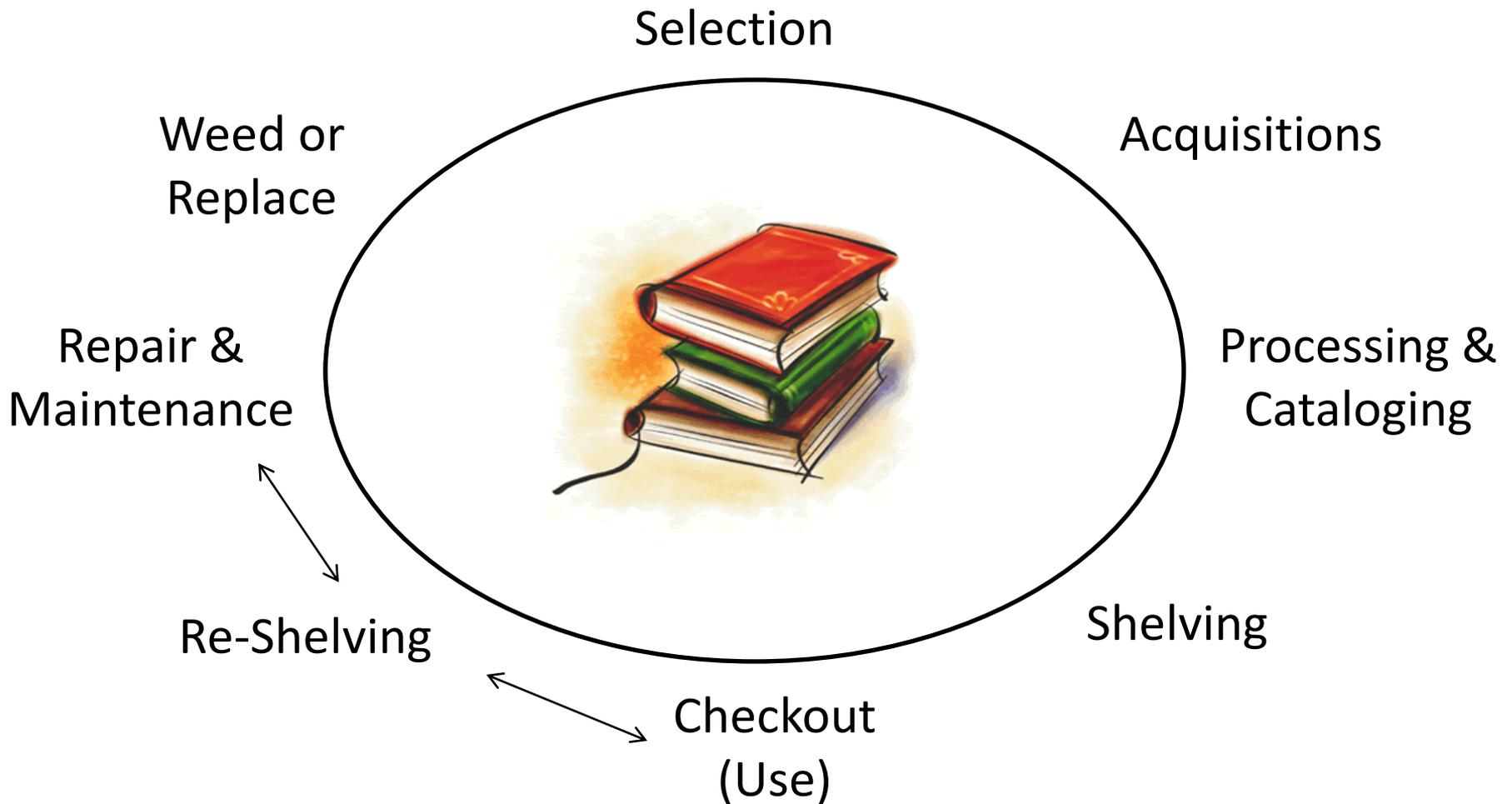
A good library is like a good haircut. It's not what you cut – it's what you leave.

Anne Felix

Grand Prairie (TX) Public Library System

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/crewmeth08.pdf>

Collection Life Cycle



Why We Weed

- “To maintain a collection that is vital, relevant, and useful.”
- Public Libraries are not in the business of collecting “things,” but providing **content** and **access** to content.
- Space
- Physical Condition

Physical Condition: Mold Spreads!



Picture taken by Holly Hibner

Why We Weed

“CREW continues to caution, however, that **lack of funds** to replace outdated or worn items is **never an excuse for not weeding.**”

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/crewmeth08.pdf>

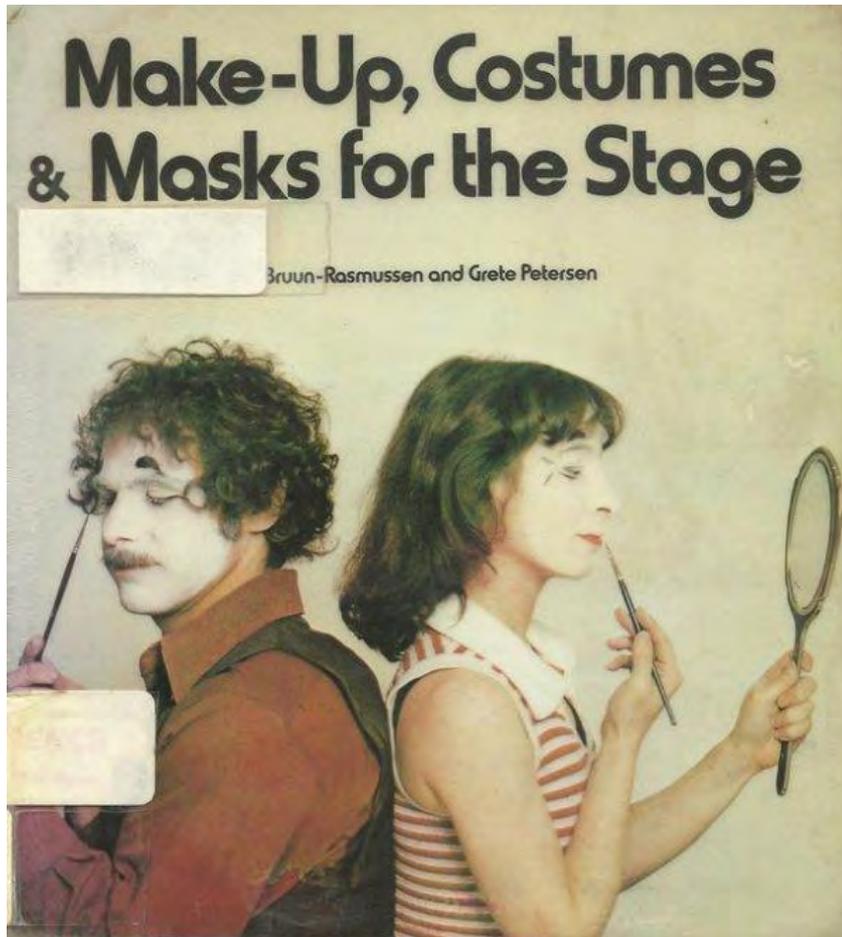
Six Benefits of Weeding

1. Save space and time
2. Makes collection more appealing
3. Enhance library's reputation
4. Build patron trust
5. Helps keep up with collection needs
6. Creates constant feedback on strengths and weaknesses of the collection

...But my boss won't let me weed!



...But there are no bad books!



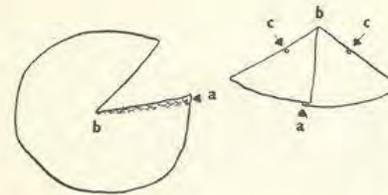
Old-fashioned Chinese coolie

Make the coolie hat of thick cardboard. You need scissors, glue and some string.

1. Cut a slice from a round piece of cardboard so that when you bring the sides together, the hat is the size you want (see drawing).

2. Draw the line "a-b" to guide you as you glue the flaps together.

3. Prick 2 holes at "c" as shown in the second drawing.



4. Pull a string through the holes from the inside.

5. At each end of the string, which is now on the outside, tie a knot which is big enough so that it won't slip back through the hole.

6. Make a thick braid of black yarn and glue it inside the hat.

For your costume, use a kimono or a loose-hanging jacket and wide pants.

Paint your face pale yellow with a grease paint stick or with body make-up (see page 32). Smooth the make-up with your fingers. Touch up your eyebrows with black grease paint, your lips with red.

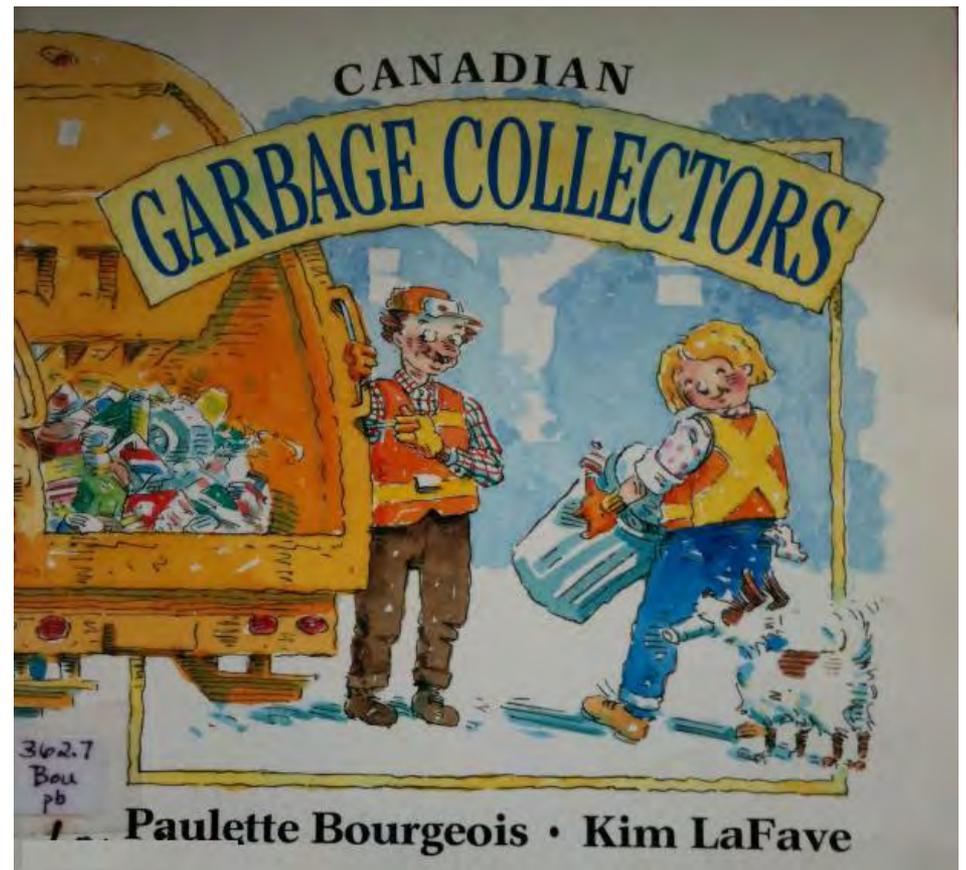
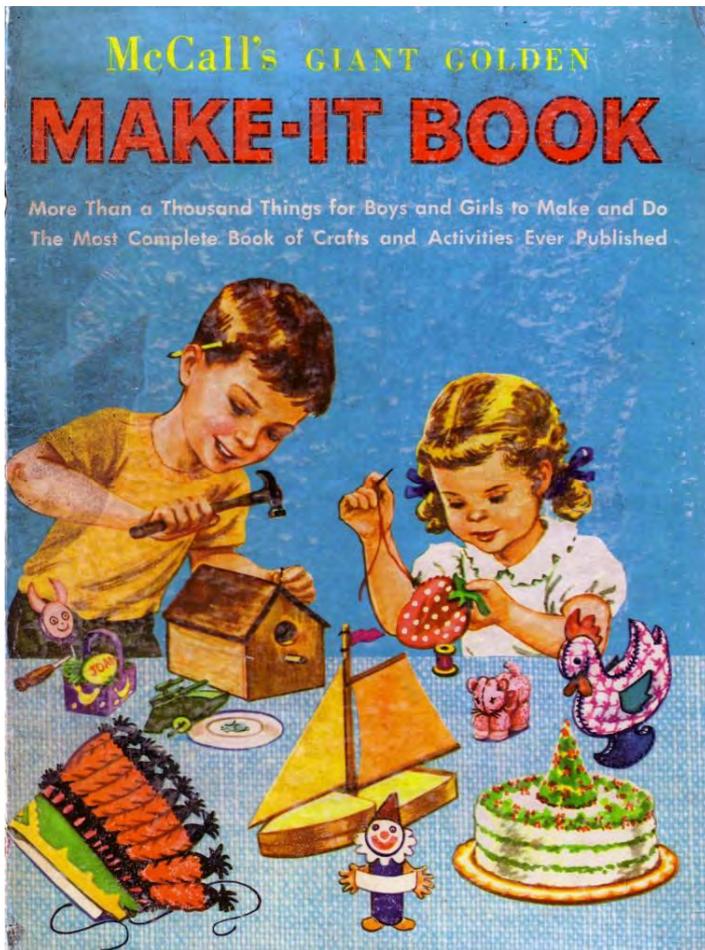
12

You could also make a twirled moustache of black wool. Glue it on with spirit gum or make a hanging moustache of crepe hair (see page 46). Of course, you can always paint on a moustache or beard with burnt cork.

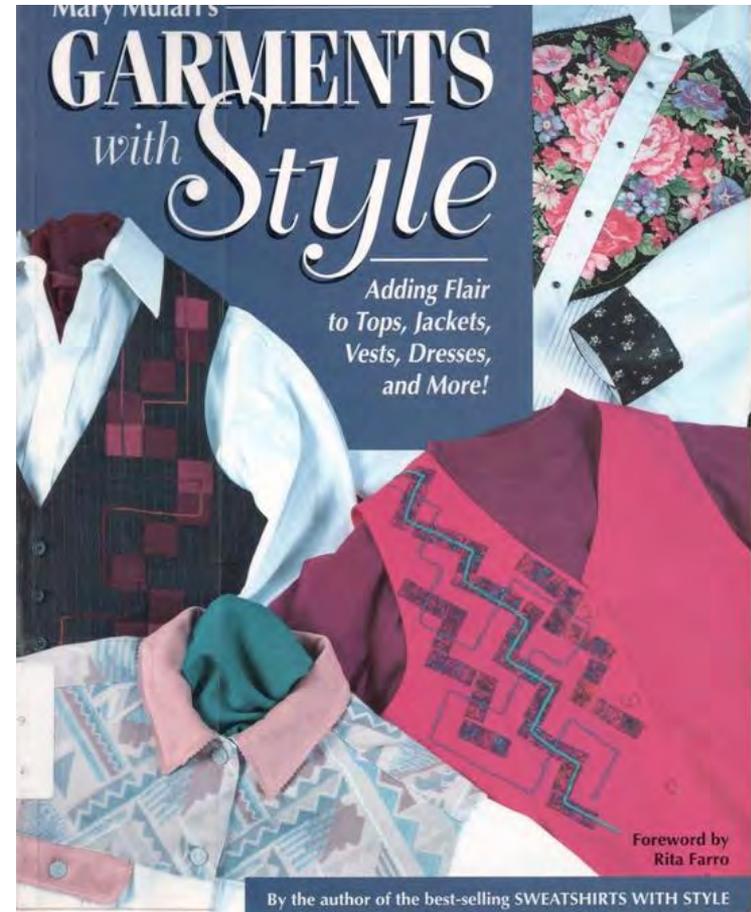
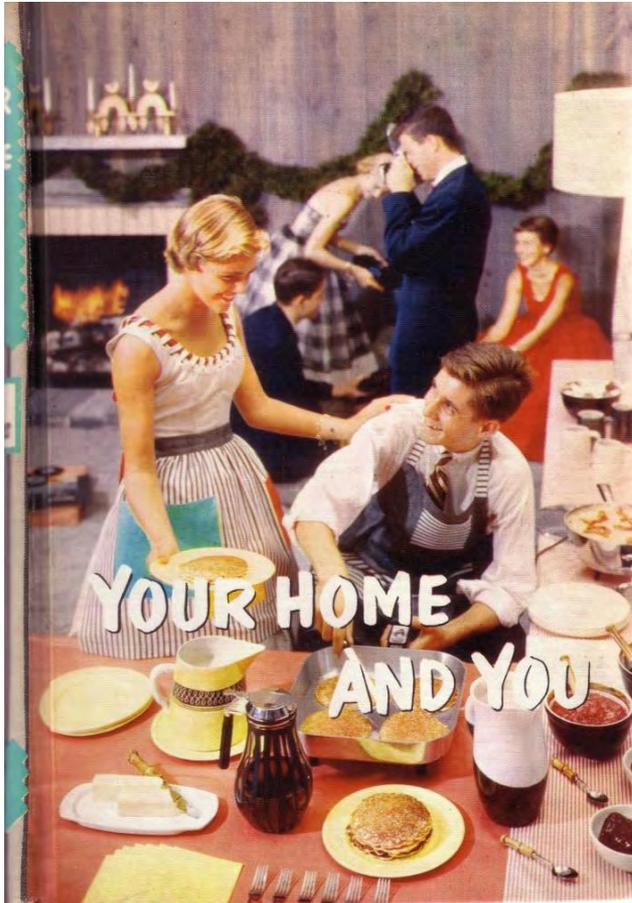
This girl made her eyes more Oriental with some strokes of an eyebrow pencil. Her moustache is crepe hair; a braid is glued in her hat. All she needs is a kimono.



...But someone might need them!



...But it's in good shape!



...But we won't have anything left!



...But I don't have time!



CREW Method

Continuous
Review
Evaluation
Weeding



Image: <http://groundskeepertools.com>

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/>

MUSTIE

- **M**isleading
- **U**gly
- **S**uperseded
- **T**rivial
- **I**rrelevant
- May be obtained **E**lsewhere



Image: <http://wagnervana.com>

Five Processes of “Reverse Selection”

- Inventory
- Collection evaluation
- Collection maintenance
- Weeding
- Discarding

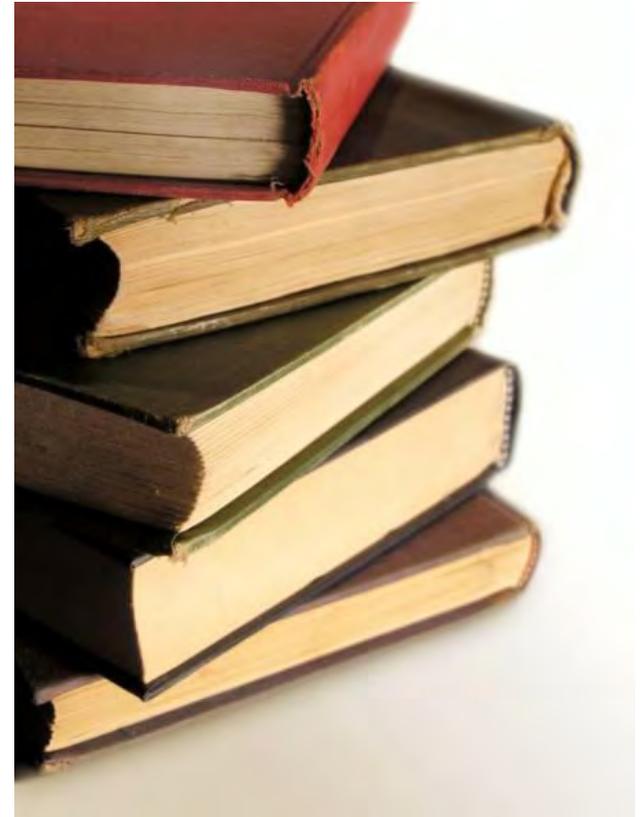


Image: <http://intellchick.com>

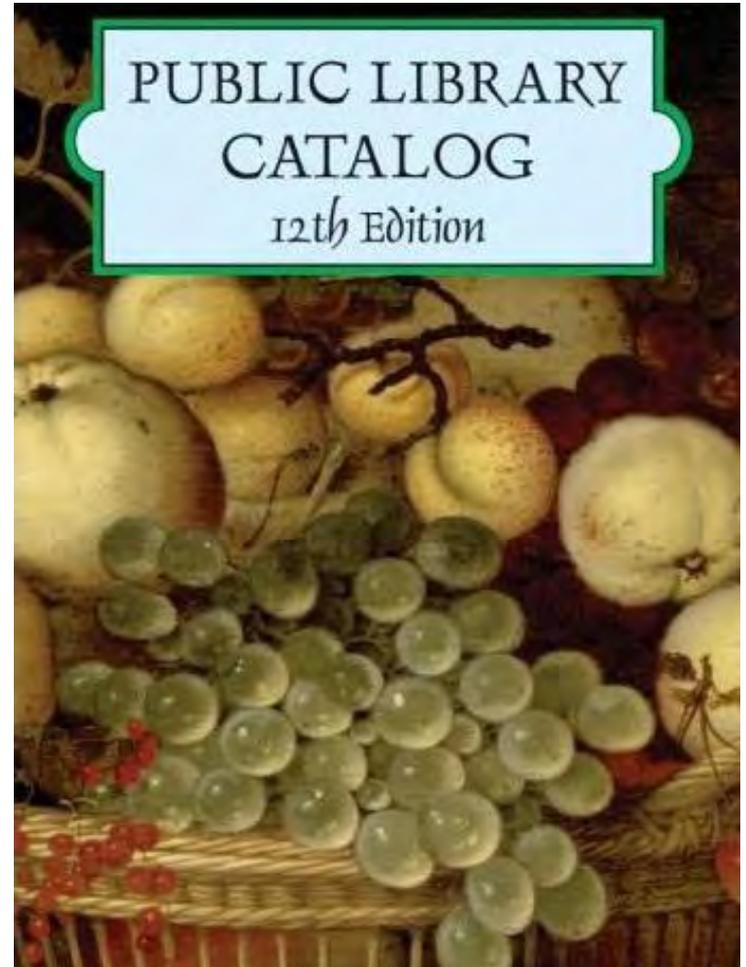
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/crewmethod08.pdf>

How Much? How often?

- Start small
 - Bad condition
 - Duplicates
- Report shelf-sitters quarterly
- Follow collection objectives
- One big weed, then continuously

Public Library Catalog

Final answer
or suggestion?



Statistics

- Gather them
- Report them
- Analyze them
 - Relative Use
 - Average Age
 - Turnover Rate
 - Available space

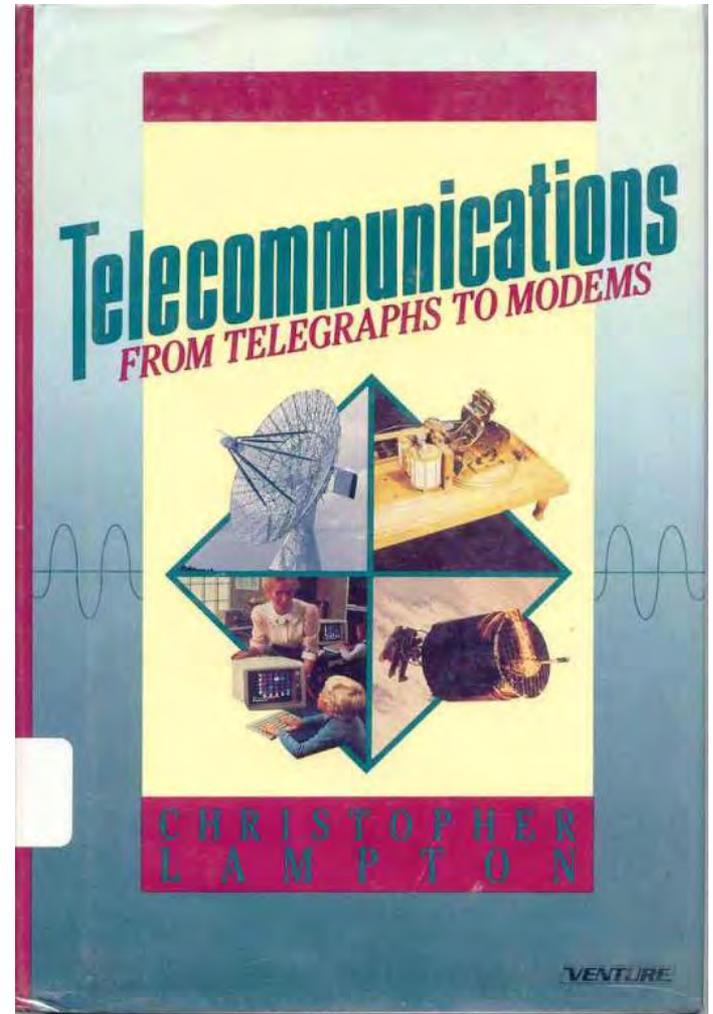


Image: <http://juliuscampbell.com>

Keep or Weed?

Telecommunications :
From Telegraphs to
Modems

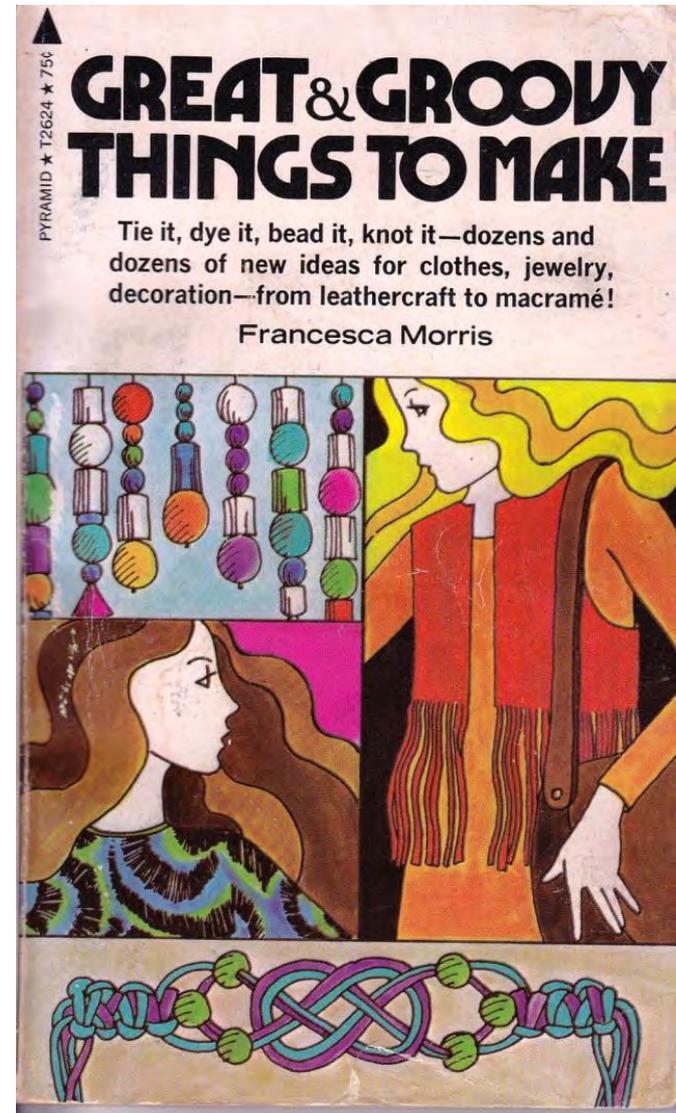
Lampton
1991



Keep or Weed?

Great and Groovy Things to Make

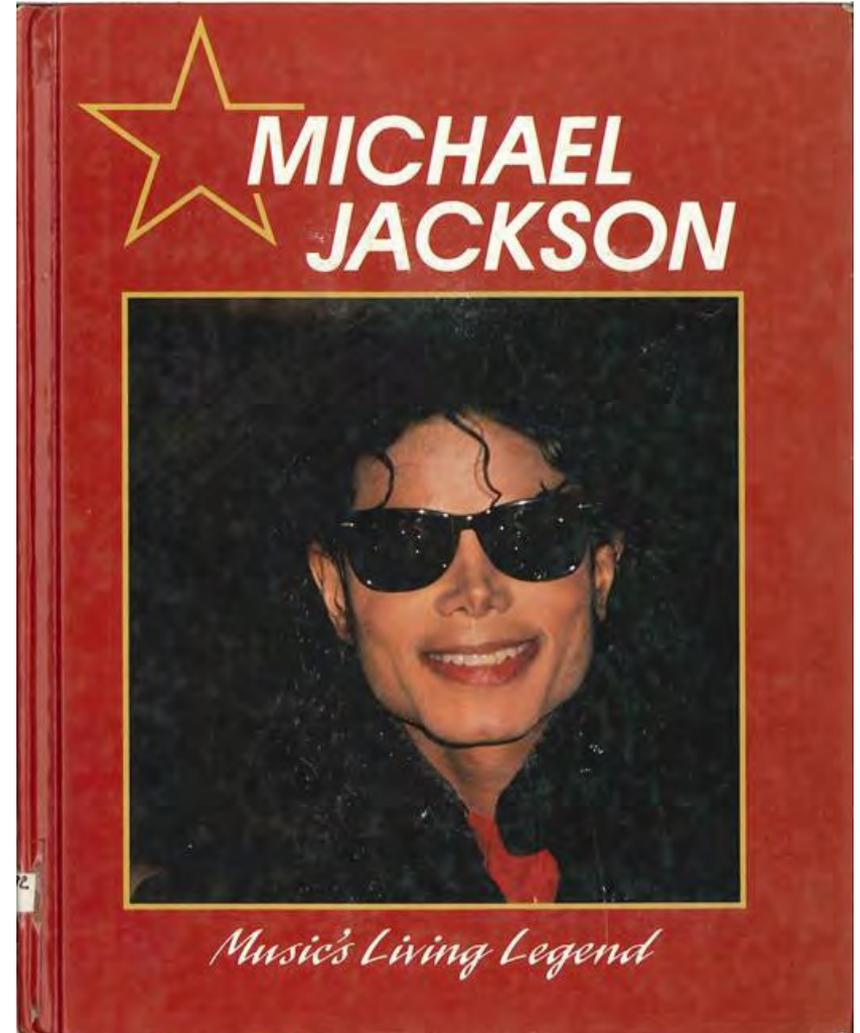
Morris
1972



Keep or Weed?

Michael Jackson :
Music's Living
Legend

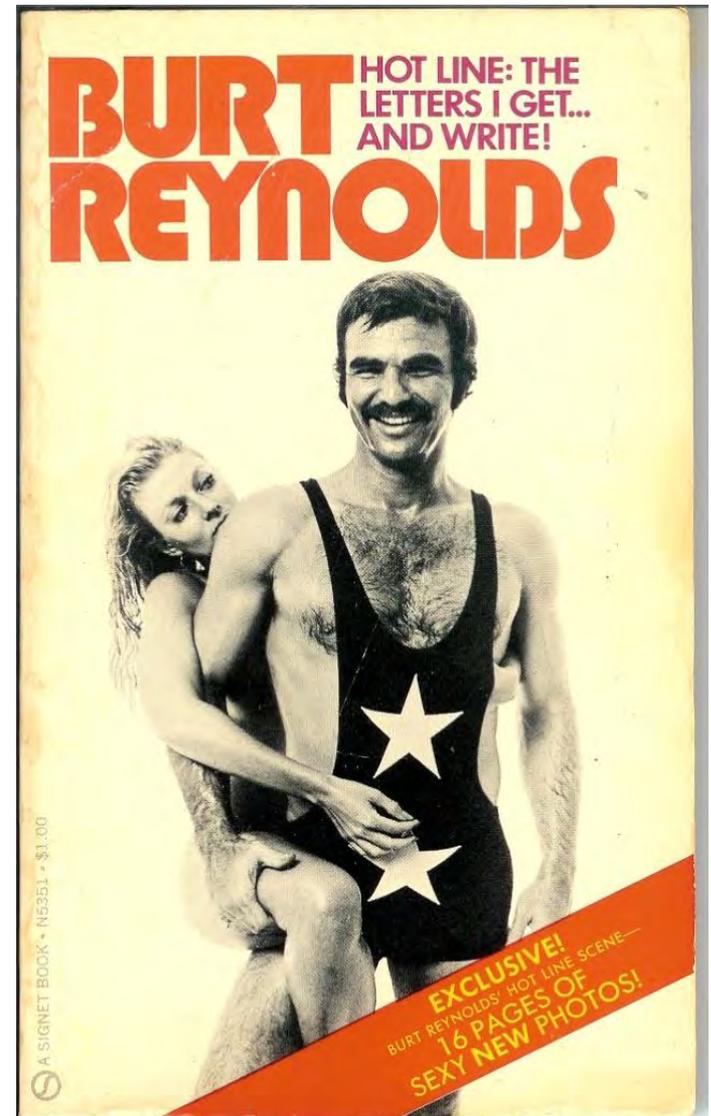
Wallner
1991



Keep or Weed?

Burt Reynolds Hotline: The
Letters I Get...and Write!

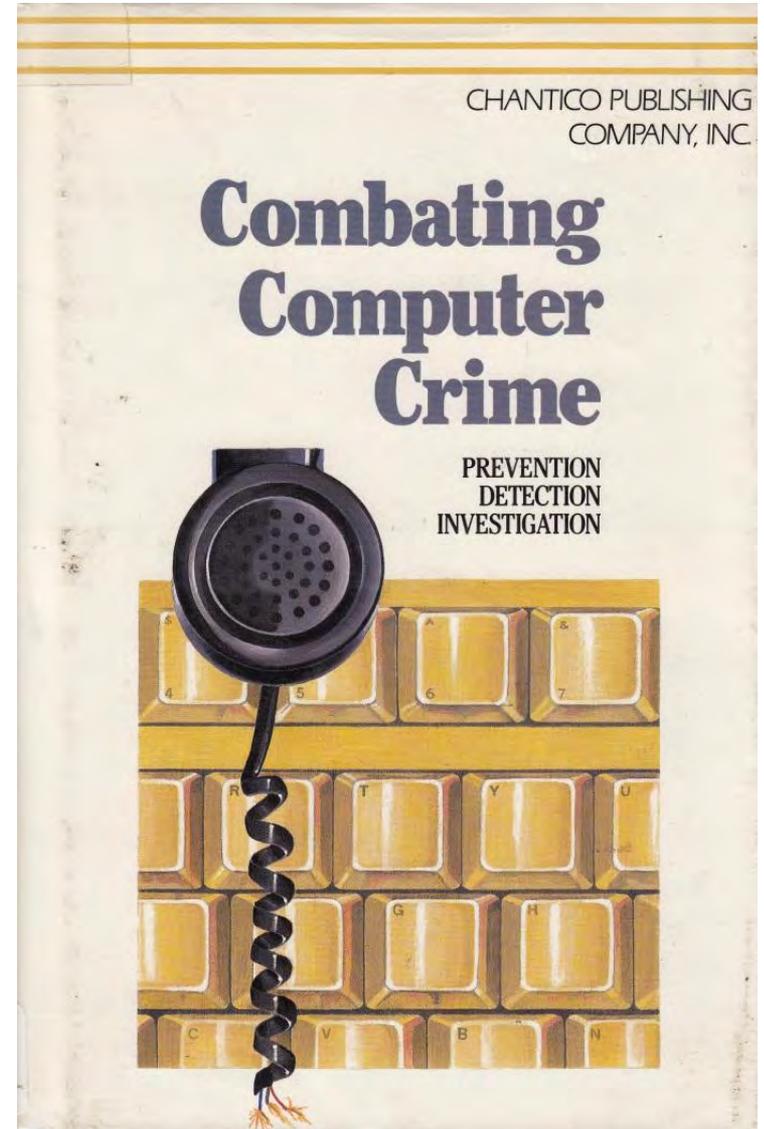
Reynolds
1972



Keep or Weed?

Combating Computer Crime

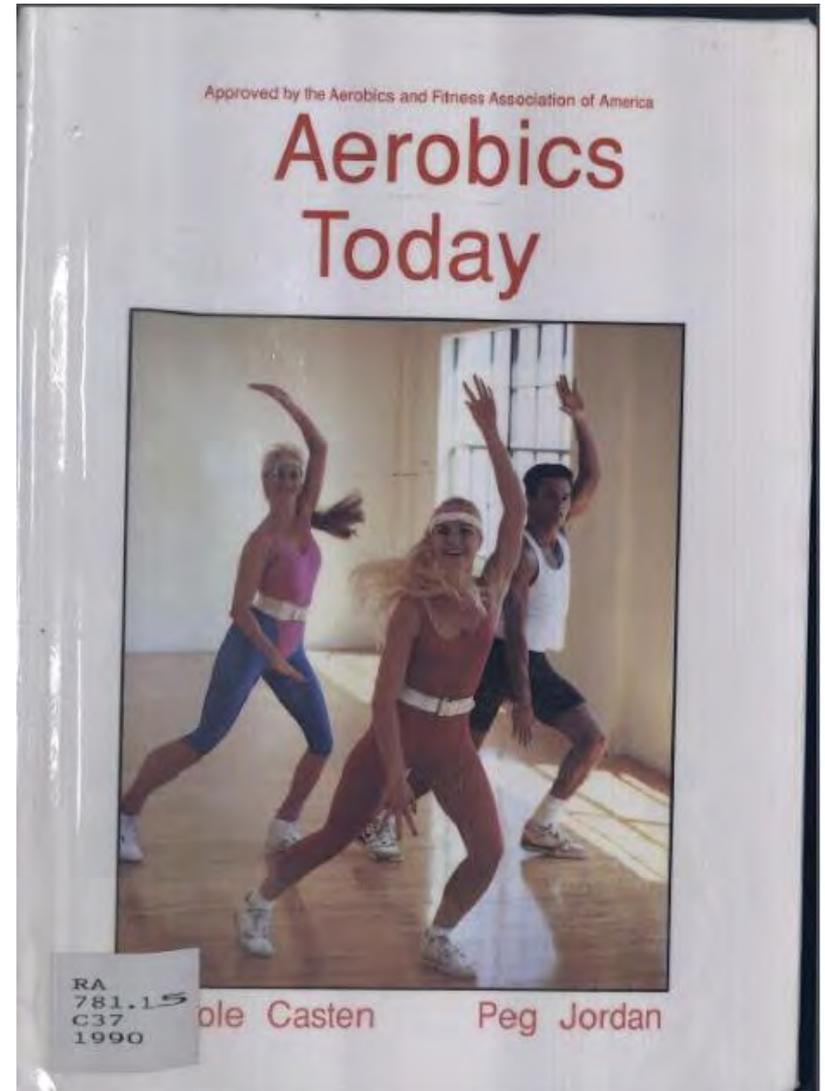
Chantico Publishing
1992



Keep or Weed?

Aerobics Today

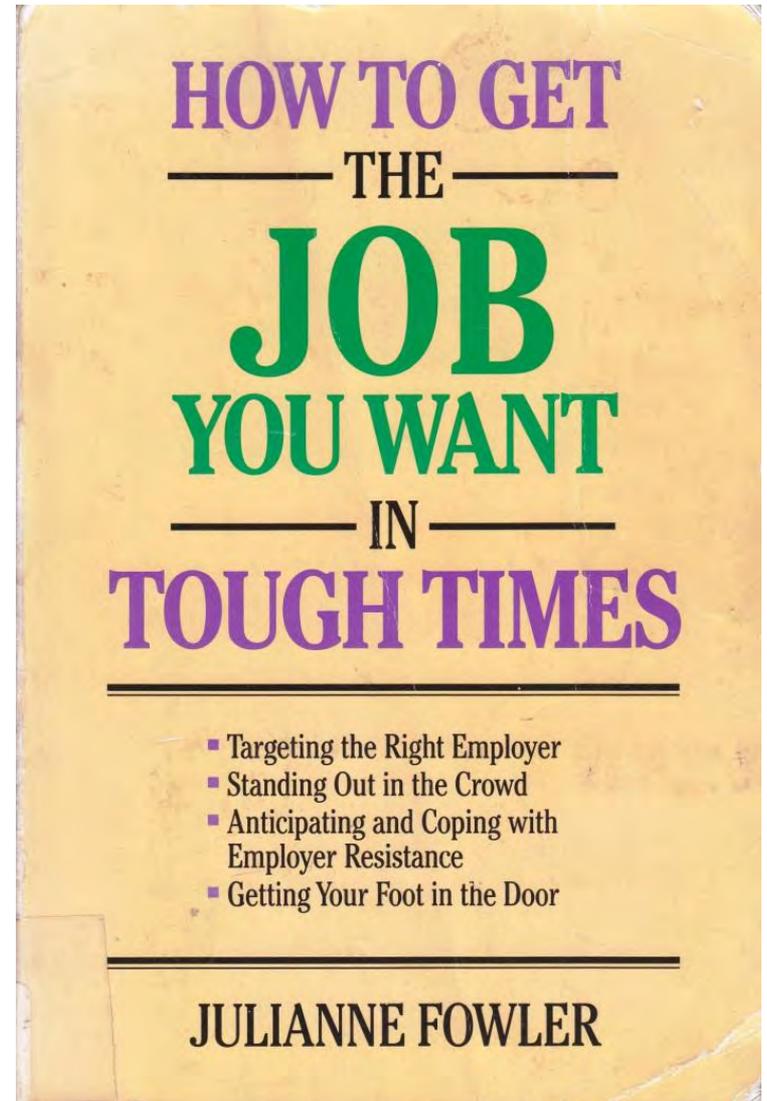
Casten and
Jordan
1990



Keep or Weed?

How to Get the Job
You Want In Tough
Times

Fowler
1991



Sources of Free/Cheap CURRENT info

- State Library
- Professional associations
- Bar associations
- Health Departments
- Schools, colleges, universities
- Legislators' offices

Keep Your Distance

- Don't be sentimental.
- Put yourself in the patron's shoes.
- Compare collection to similar libraries.
- Be realistic.
- Are you proud or defensive of your collection?

Contact Me!

Holly Hibner

hhibner@plymouthlibrary.org

<http://awfullibrarybooks.net>

Twitter: @hhibner

Presentation available at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/hhibner>