



Awful Library Books: Weed Them Off Your Shelves!

Holly Hibner

Adult Services Coordinator

Plymouth District Library

hhibner@plymouthlibrary.org

www.slideshare.net/hhibner

<http://awfullibrarybooks.info>



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 Management

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!





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“CREW continues to caution, however, that lack of funds to replace outdated or worn items is never an excuse for not weeding.”



Quality Services Audit Checklist (QSAC)

- Is your library certified?
- What would you need to do to get certified?
- How do the standards compare to your current situation?

<http://www.michigan.gov/qsac>

Six Benefits of Weeding

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

Physical Inventory

- What do you *really* own?
- What condition is it in?
- Where does the catalog say it is located?
- Where is it *really* located?
- How is it linked?
- What does the link tell you?



Statistics

- Gather them!
- Report them
- Analyze them
 - Use
 - Age
 - Item type
 - Available space



CREW Method

Continuous
Reverview
Evaluation
Weeding



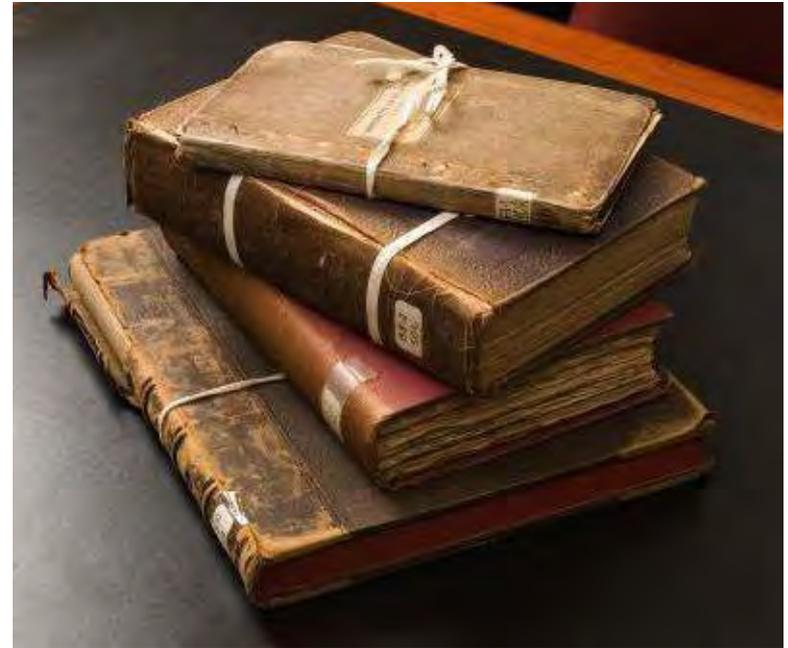
MUSTIE

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



Five Processes of “Reverse Selection”

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



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

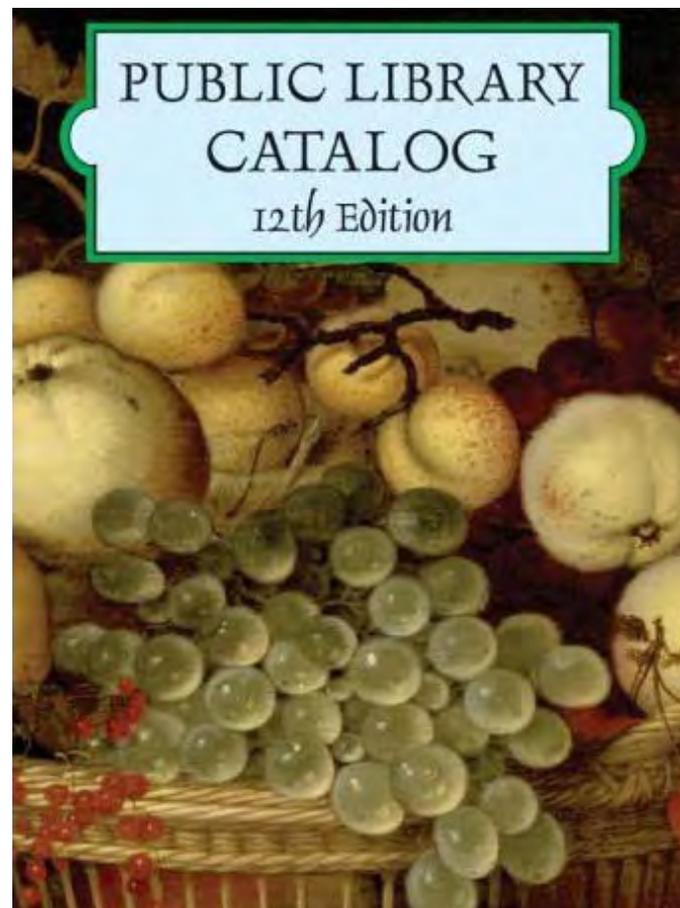


How Much? How often?

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

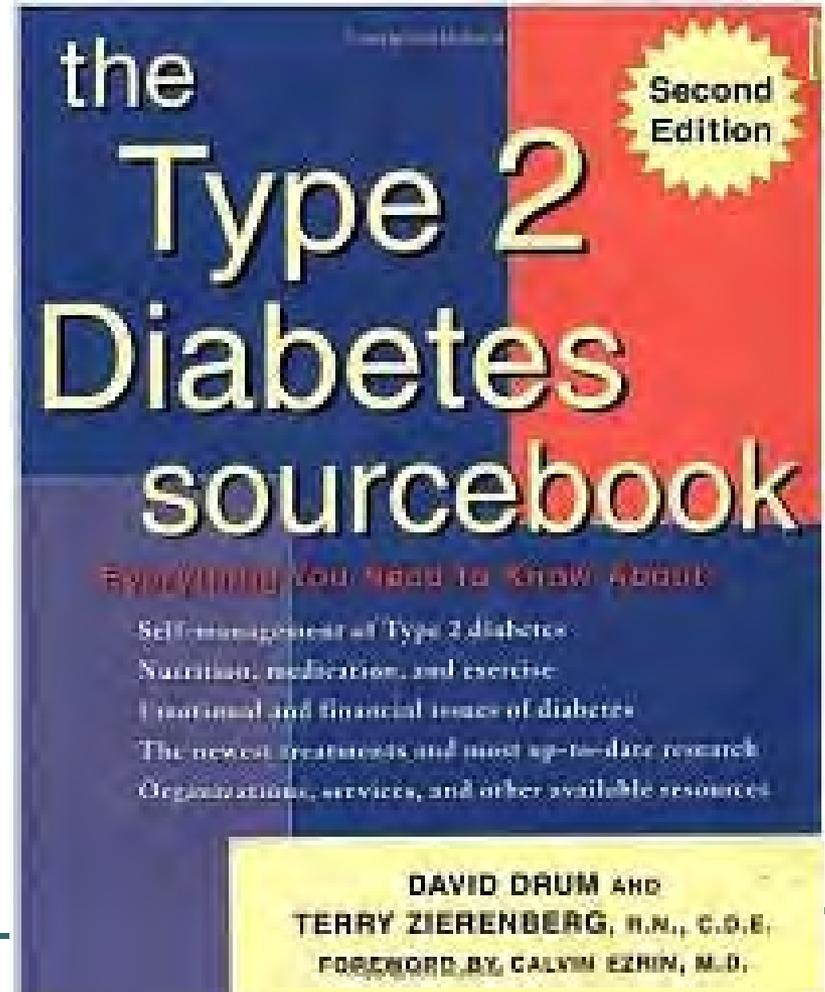
Public Library Catalog

Final answer
or suggestion?



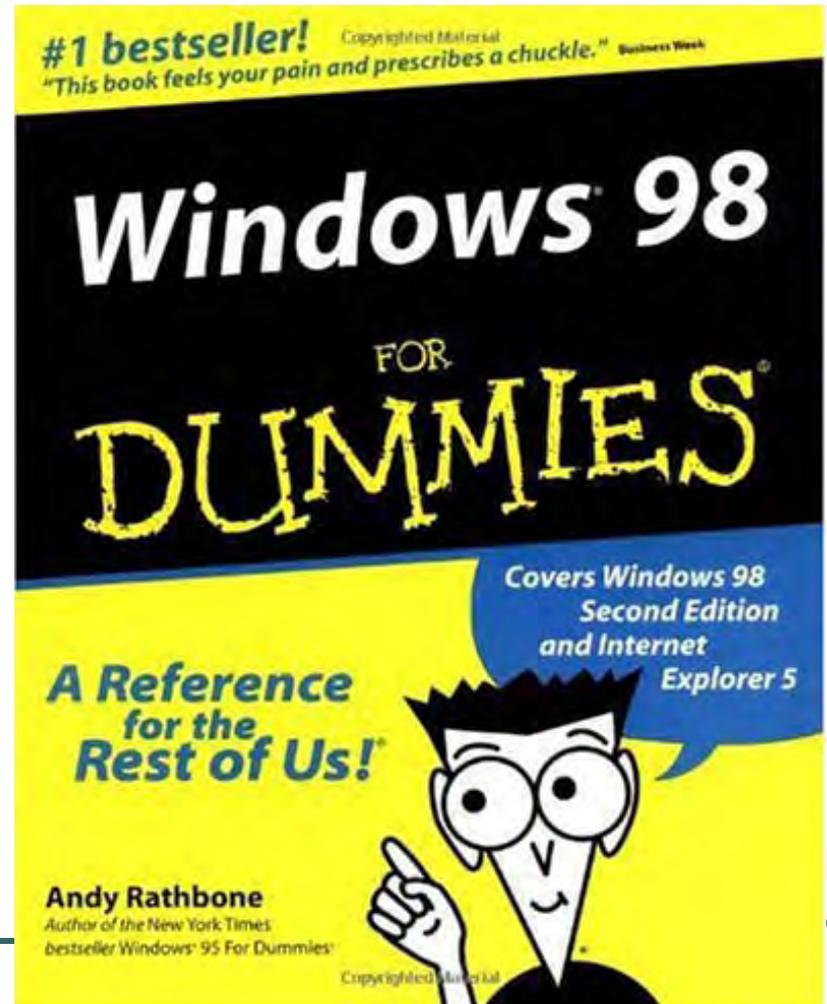
Keep or Weed?

- Type 2 Diabetes Sourcebook
- Copyright 2000



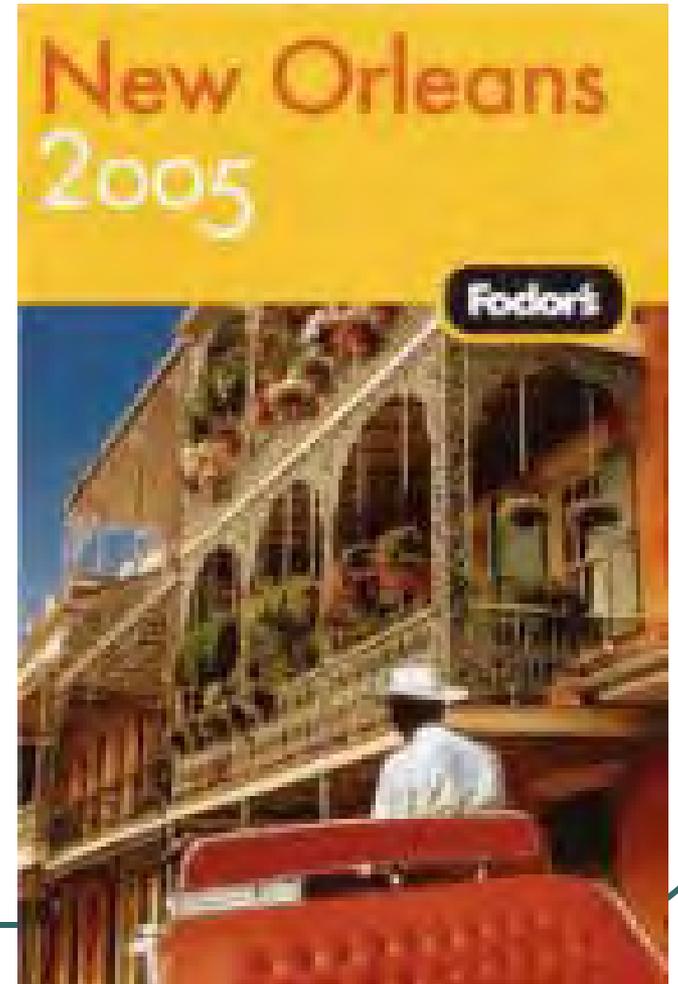
Keep or Weed?

- Windows '98 for Dummies
- Copyright 2000



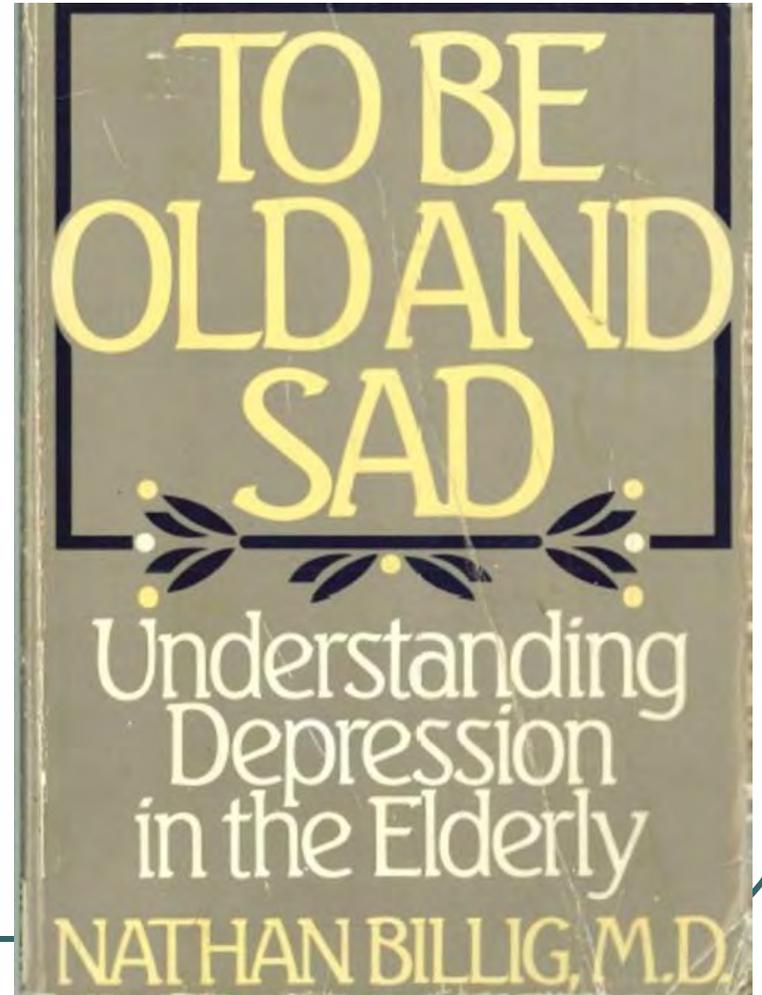
Keep or Weed?

- Fodor's New Orleans 2005
- Copyright 2004



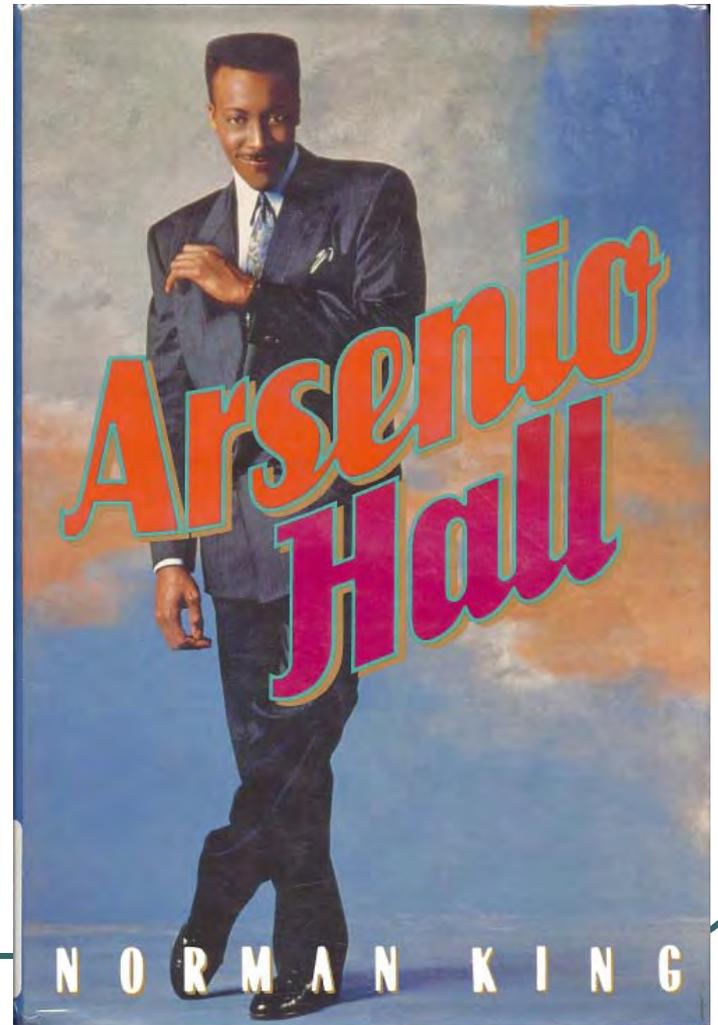
Keep or Weed?

- To Be Old and Sad: Understanding Depression in the Elderly
- Copyright 1987



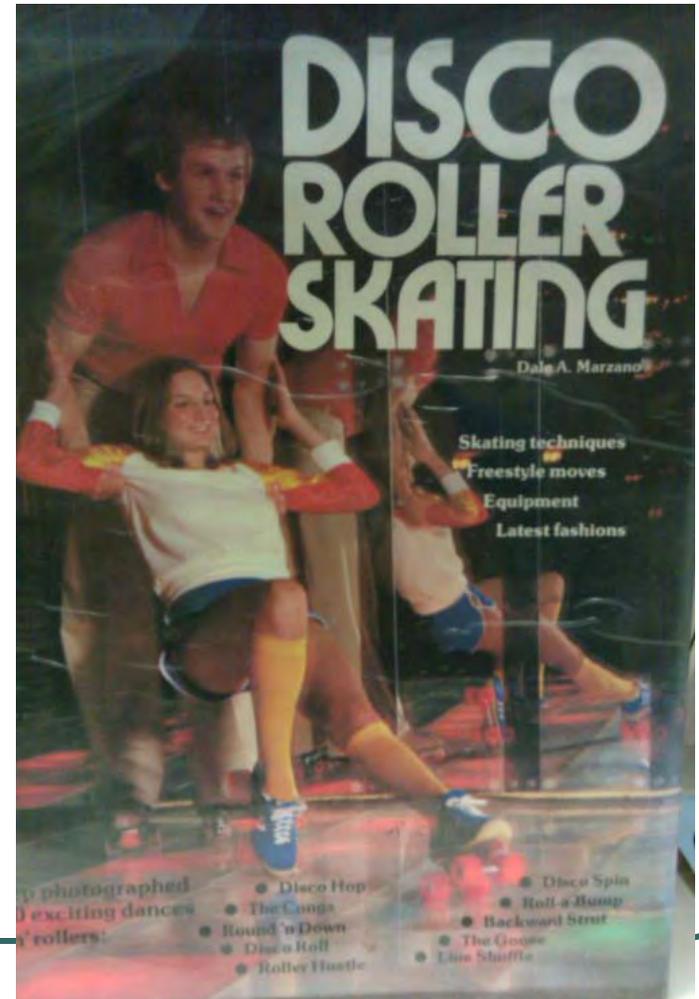
Keep or Weed?

- Arsenio Hall
- Copyright 1993



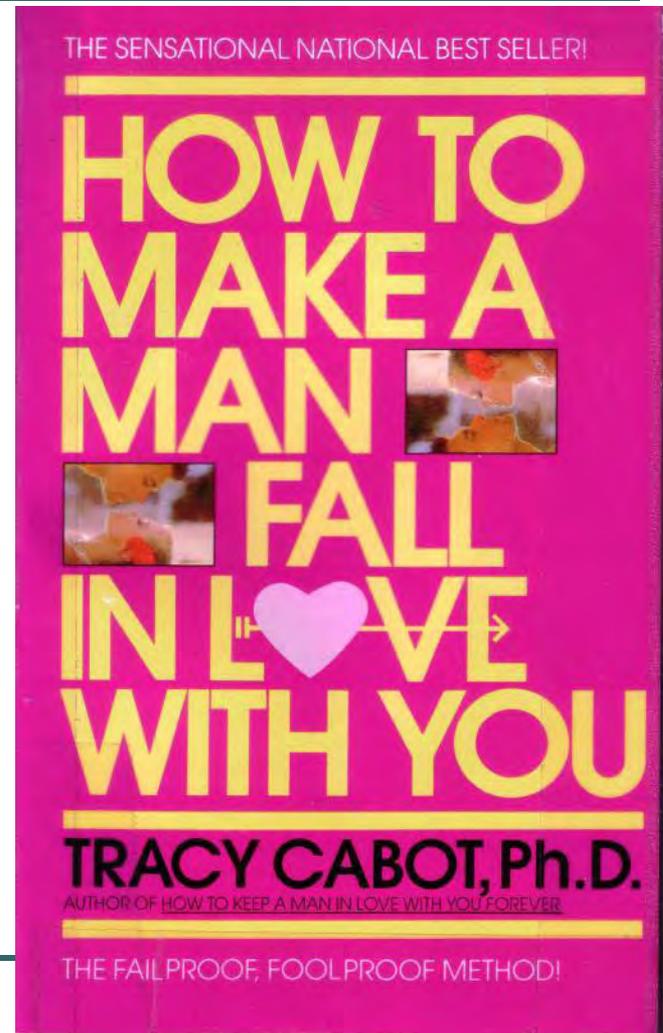
Keep or Weed?

- Disco Roller Skating
- Copyright 1979



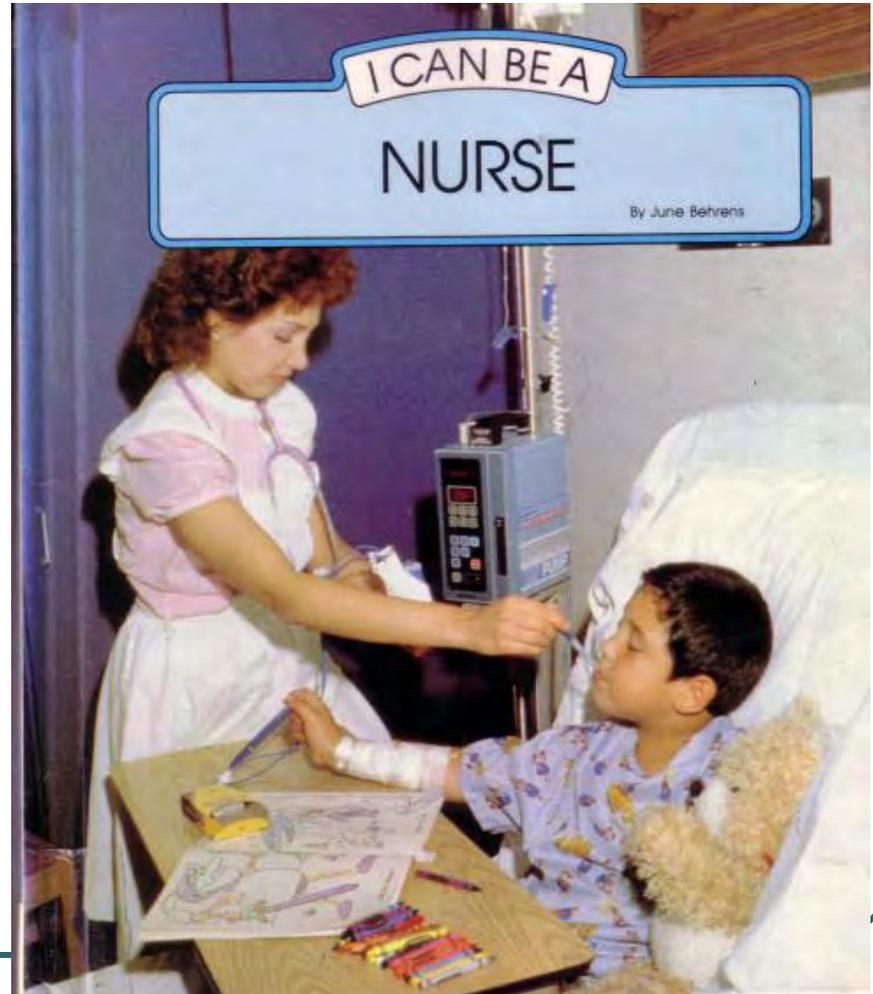
Keep or Weed?

- How to Make a Man Fall in Love with You
- Copyright 1987



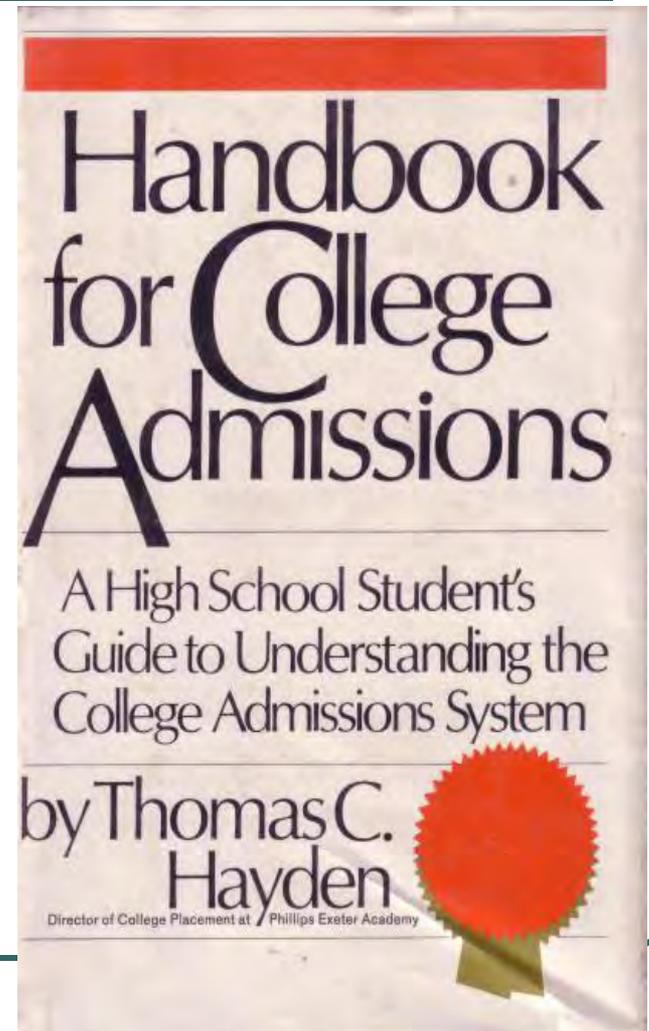
Keep or Weed?

- I Can Be a Nurse
- Copyright 1986



Keep or Weed?

- Handbook for College Admissions
- Copyright 1981



Sources of Free/Cheap CURRENT info

- Mel.org
- Professional associations
- Bar associations
- Health Departments
- Schools, colleges, universities
- Legislators' offices



Contact Me!

Holly Hibner

hhibner@plymouthlibrary.org

www.slideshare.com/hhibner

www.scribd.com/hhibner

<http://hhibner.blogspot.com>

<http://awfullibrarybooks.info>