

Date: May 17, 2017
To: Board of Trustees Presidents, MHLS Member Libraries
From: Camilla von Bergen, MHLS Board President
RE: 2017 Weeding Project for Library Collections

On behalf of the MHLS Board of Trustees, I am writing to you to request your support for your library's participation in the 2017 Weeding Project currently underway in our libraries across the region. The primary purpose of the 2017 Weeding Project is to increase the circulation of library materials by implementing the best practices in collection management.

The MHLS Central Library and Collection Development Committee, in collaboration with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District/MHLS Central Library, is offering customized lists to every public library director on items in their library's collection that have not circulated in many years. The MHLS Board of Trustees encourage library staff to closely examine these items and determine if items not circulated for many years should be weeded from the collection.

Why do libraries weed their collections?

- Circulation frequently rises after a weeding project because patrons can more easily browse without having to look through materials not borrowed for many years.
- What a library offers in its collection should be based on the current needs and interests of active patrons.
- Libraries do not have unlimited space and must continually make room for new materials as well as repurpose space to better serve the community.
- Newer and more useful materials should be easy to find and displayed in user-friendly ways such as roomy shelves for easy browsing and book covers facing outward.
- It may be dangerous to keep and provide information that no longer is accurate.

Thank you for considering the MHLS Board of Trustees request for your library's participation in the 2017 Weeding Project. If we may provide you with any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact Tom Sloan, MHLS Executive Directors at tsloan@midhudson.org or 845.471.6060 ext.217.

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