



@ your library!

AASL Exploratorium

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Have you ever inherited a mess of a library? Are you overwhelmed by chaos, no apparent organization, or an ancient collection? Help every student succeed by transforming the library into a welcoming, organized environment. Learn how to evaluate needs, prioritize tasks, and create a quality library in no time.

Many school libraries have been neglected over the past decade because of less professional coverage, budget cuts, and lack of administrative support. But when a library is revived, the first thing is to hire a librarian to tackle the mess left by the neglect. If you're that librarian who is supposed to turn the library and the library program around, what do you do? The first step into the library may be overwhelming – a mess of books, papers, supplies, equipment, furniture. It may be difficult to see the potential when the quality of a library is lost because it is a disorganized mess...or hasn't been weeded in years. Use the resources we've provided on our website to help you step back, take a deep breath, assess the strengths & weaknesses of a library, list and prioritize the tasks, enlist help, and turn the "mess" into a welcoming library where each student can succeed. Resources include customizable checklists, flow charts, and other support documents. Also included are creative ideas for recycling items that no longer belong fit the library's needs.

The ideas shared here come from our own experiences as we have cleaned up 8 "inherited" libraries and helped prioritize tasks for cleanup at over 30 other libraries. There is treasure under the clutter, and it can be fun hunting for it. We hope that you will be able to replicate a "clean sweep" the next time you "inherit" a neglected library.

Resources: See customizable weeding flowchart, evaluation checklist, and other documents at

<http://members.cox.net/library411/>

- Weeding as Collection Development
- Program Evaluation
- Library Environment
- Recycling Efforts

Web Resources

Weed

- ❑ SUNLINK Weed of the Month Club <http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu/weed/>
- ❑ Weeding the Library Collection <http://www.wmrls.org/services/colldev/weeding.html>
- ❑ Weeding the School Library brochure <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/documents/schoollibweedng.pdf>

Recycle old books

- ❑ MIT: Building with Books http://theory.csail.mit.edu/classes/bookbuild/davis_bench.html
- ❑ Turning books into other items <http://www.thisintothat.com/index.html>
- ❑ Book Purse Tutorial <http://sewing.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.rudehouse.com/Arystocrafts/craft%5Fpages/purses.html>
- ❑ Recycled Hardcover Book Purse http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr_accessories_purses/article/0,1789,HGTV_3227_3661732,00.html
- ❑ How to Make an Altered CD Book <http://www.altered-book.com/CD-book.html>
- ❑ Altered Books Lesson Plan (turn old books into collaborative units!) <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/Linda-books.htm>
- ❑ What is an Altered Book? <http://www.lisavollrath.com/articles/016.html>

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Special thanks to TLC's Clean Sweep for lots of inspiration! <http://tlc.discovery.com/fansites/cleansweep/cleansweep.html>