



## Weed of the Month

Reference (April 2005)

### Why Weed Reference?

As virtual reference services continue to grow in both numbers and popularity, print reference collections cannot stay static or bloated if they are going to be viable and useful. Even more than the rest of your collection, titles in reference must be current and authoritative.

### Suggested Dewey Numbers to Check:



The reference section may be small, but the Dewey range is large! Your collection probably spans all the Dewey classes. And if you have a "ready reference" section behind your desk, you'll need to check it out also.

### Specific Criteria for Weeding:

As you examine each title in your reference collection, you will need to decide if it should be kept as reference, moved to circulation, or discarded. A title that is kept as reference must be up-to-date as well as formatted for efficient reference use. Any titles more suited for browsing, but still current, should be moved to circulation. Titles with "encyclopedia" or "dictionary" in their titles should not automatically merit a place in your reference collection. Evaluate all titles. Be critical in all areas, but especially any technical, political, or medical topics. Even titles on subjects like cooking and social behavior can have misleading and/or potentially dangerous information, or information that is not relevant or of interest to today's students.

Reference titles are often updated by new editions and/or supplements. If a new edition has been issued, you should replace your older version. Be sure that you keep up with any supplements issued until a new edition is released. (But be careful that you don't mistakenly discard the latest edition and keep only the supplements!)

In addition to updating your old standards, think in terms of new topics that students might look for in a print resource as well as online. Watch as new reference titles are published and decide if the topic would be in demand for your reference section. Promote these new reference titles and your print reference section.

### Consider Weeding Titles Like These:

- Acronyms and initialisms dictionary, c1965.
- The aerospace age dictionary, [1965].
- American Indians, yesterday and today; a profusely illustrated encyclopedia of the American Indian, 1960.
- American place-names; a concise and selective dictionary for the continental United States of America, 1970.
- The American political dictionary, 1964.
- The Ann Landers encyclopedia, A to Z : improve your life emotionally, medically, sexually, socially, spiritually, 1978.
- The baseball encyclopedia; the complete and official record of major league baseball, [1969].
- A basic dictionary of synonyms and antonyms, c1978.
- Better homes and gardens encyclopedia of cooking, 1973.
- Better homes and gardens family medical guide, [1966].
- Black's medical dictionary, 1976.
- Blakiston's Gould medical dictionary : a modern comprehensive dictionary of the terms used in all branches of medicine and allied sciences, with illustrations and tables, c1979.
- Bloodletters and badmen; a narrative encyclopedia of American criminals from the Pilgrims to the present, [1973].
- Clements' encyclopedia of world governments, 1974.
- The complete encyclopedia of crafts. 1975.
- Computer dictionary for everyone, c1979.
- The concise encyclopedia of psychology and psychiatry, 1977.
- The condensed chemical dictionary, [1971].
- A consumer's dictionary of food additives, [1972].

