



Weed of the Month

Afghanistan (March 2009)

Why Weed Afghanistan?

The war in Iraq has certainly overshadowed the war in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is often referred to as “the other war,” even though our involvement there pre-dates the Iraqi war. The new U.S. presidential administration promises to focus its attention on new strategies for winning the war in Afghanistan, so expect media coverage to increase, and student interest to be piqued about this fascinating country.



Suggested Dewey Numbers to Check:

The history of Afghanistan is found in 958.1, while travel and description will be found in the 915.8 section. Materials that deal with social groups will be found in the 305.891 section. In addition to the general, reference and biography sections, check your AV collection for outdated information in media such as videos/DVDs.

Specific Criteria for Weeding:

9-11 was a seminal event in U.S. history. The country of Afghanistan soon took center stage as it was revealed that the Taliban controlled government was harboring the mastermind (Osama bin Laden) of the 9-11 attacks, as well as allowing al-Qaida terrorist training camps to flourish in its country.

Titles published prior to 9-11 will obviously be candidates for review, and possible weeding. Books that focus on historical events, such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979-1989) may be valid, or maybe not if the history being told is still open ended, or if the item itself is in poor physical condition. General history books on Afghanistan prior to 9-11 should be weeded and replaced with more up-to-date titles.

Does your biography section contain titles on Afghan leaders and personalities? For example, does your biography section include information on the current democratically elected president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai?

Books chronicling modern day life in Afghanistan published prior to 9-11 will not show or speak of the current cultural and political advances made since the fall of the Taliban. For example, jobs for women, girls going to school, for some the optional wearing of a burka, as well as people participating in a democratic election. Nor will pre-911 books show how the Taliban literally altered the physical landscape of Afghanistan in 2001. The Taliban had dynamited the 6th century Buddhas of Bamyan (statues carved into cliffs) because they were deemed idols. Review your existing AV resources in a similar light.



Afghanistan is still a country at war, a country divided by tribalism and Islamic law, a country in transition. Therefore this topic requires books that are balanced and rooted in reality.

It is now approaching 8 years since 9-11 and our involvement in Afghanistan. Check post-911 Afghanistan related titles for physical wear. Perhaps a replacement copy is in order, or a new title with fresh insights is needed.

Consider Weeding Titles Like These:

Afghanistan, [1962]. LCCN 62-015498

Afghanistan [1973]. LCCN 76-154993

Afghanistan, 1980. LCCN 80-018356

Afghanistan, 1995. LCCN 95-002931

Afghanistan, 1996. LCCN 96-005150

Afghanistan: a country study, 1986 LCCN 86-003359

Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, 1985. LCCN 85-015993

Afghanistan in pictures [1971]. 74-169197

Caravans to Tartary, 1978. 78-007658

Afghan trucks, 1976. LCCN 84-234895

The land and people of Afghanistan, [1962]. LCCN 62-016297

The land and people of Afghanistan, 1973. LCCN 72-013178

Let's visit Afghanistan, [1968]. LCCN 68-019512

Shaer of Afghanistan [1969] LCCN 70-089548

Spies behind the pillars, bandits at the pass [1972]. LCCN 74-185128

The Taliban: ascent to power, 2000. LCCN 2001-289342