

Housekeeping at Roseburg Public Library
Kris Wiley for The News-Review

It's winter cleaning time at Roseburg Public Library, and the library team is spending a lot of energy in the stacks tidying up.

Youth Services Librarian Aurora Ropp is tackling the junior nonfiction area and withdrawing material that is at least 20 years old and has not checked out in the past four years. Many of the books are 36 years old, which is older than Aurora!

Withdrawing material, also known as weeding, is an essential component of collection development. Our goal is to provide a popular, circulating collection, and we focus on adding new items and keeping the books that check out regularly.

With six years of experience at Roseburg Public Library, Aurora and I feel comfortable that we know the community and our readers well, and we take pride in the time and expertise we dedicate to the collection.

Most of the weeding decisions we make are simple. We focus on pulling books that are in poor condition, have been updated or are not circulating. Often with nonfiction books, we already own a similar item that is newer and more relevant. Sometimes we purchase a new book on the topic to replace the outdated information.

Weeding creates space for new materials, and that is especially important in junior nonfiction, which is where we shelve graphic novels. That genre is so popular, the only reason we withdraw an item is because it is falling apart. Aurora is growing the graphic novel section, and we need more room to house it.

Over the next couple of months, we will expand junior nonfiction, shift young adult nonfiction and reduce the space allocated for adult fiction.

I manage the adult collection, and I'm weeding novels that are at least four years old and have not checked out in at least two years.

That does not mean I pull everything; rather, it means I inspect all of the books that fall in that category. Examples of books I keep: those that are part of a series that has checked out; many classics; and most books by Oregon authors or based in the state.

We regularly add new titles to the collection. In fact, last year we added 4,100 items, 3,700 of which were purchased. Our goal is to maintain a collection of 75,000 to 85,000 items, and we currently sit at 81,000.

That brings me to our other housekeeping project. We just started the inventory process, much of which is completed by volunteers. They scan the barcode of every item in the library, and staff members follow up on missing titles. This ensures the library catalog is accurate.

Have questions about our collection development? Email me at kwiley@roseburgor.gov or stop in for a chat. It's one of my favorite topics.

Next week's library events

Tuesday, January 21, 10:15 a.m. – Lap-Sit Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, January 22, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, January 22, 3-5 p.m. – Teen volunteer hours

Thursday, January 23, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, January 23, 4-5 p.m. – Seasonal crafts for pre-K-5th graders