

# Weeding

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WITHDRAWAL OF ITEMS FROM  
THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

“A good library is like a good haircut. It’s not what you cut – it’s what you leave.”

## Why libraries should weed

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To remove outdated titles with incorrect or misleading information

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To make shelves more attractive and easier to browse

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To make space for current titles that patrons desire

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To assess collections for gaps in particular subjects or areas

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# Excerpt from Los Alamos Public Library Policies

The Library will maintain a definite and recognizable process for the development of the collection. While the details of the process may change as needs require, the procedures will be defined clearly and be easily available and certain basic elements, as noted below, will be included.

## 4.3.1 Selection responsibility

The Library Manager is responsible for collection development, and is assisted by members of staff, with suggestions from library patrons. Those making selection or withdrawal decisions are guided by professional review and evaluation sources, practical experience, personal knowledge, expert advice, and community needs as reflected in collection usage statistics and individuals' comments.

# From Collection Development Guidelines

## COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

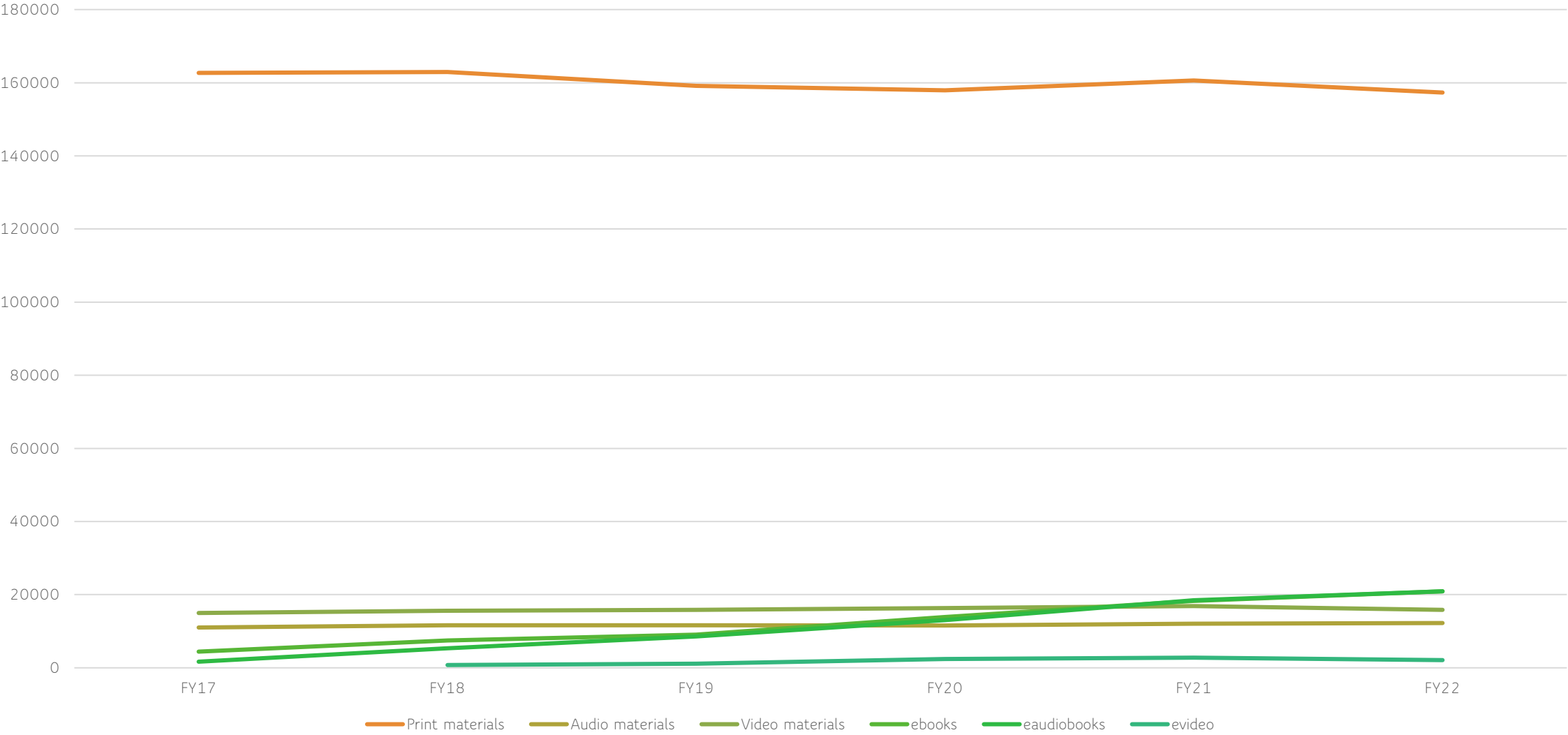
Maintenance of the collection is a fundamental responsibility of all library staff members. Staff members continuously evaluate materials, withdrawing, replacing, or repairing them. As new books are constantly added to the collection, “weeding” of existing materials creates space for the new; keeps the appearance of the collection fresh; keeps the content of the collection up to date; makes it easier for patrons to find what they need; and creates a balanced collection that reflects the changing needs of its community.

# Materials may be withdrawn from the collection if they are

- ❑ no longer accurate or factual
- ❑ worn out through use
- ❑ trivial, representing a topic that was popular at a specific point in time
- ❑ seldom used
- ❑ available digitally

Weeding is not employed as a convenient means to remove materials presumed to be controversial or disapproved of by segments of the community. Such use of the evaluation function is a violation of the principles of intellectual freedom as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights.

# Number Of Items In Library Collections





# Where do they go?

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Friends of the Library



Baker & Taylor  
Sustainable Shelves Program

