Deselection Policy – SLWA Collections
Policy number 55

Responsibility: Manager: Collection Development
Issued Oct 2007

The State Library Collections form the absolute core of our services, and our mission statement to collect and preserve our social and documentary heritage for current and future generations is clear. Our collections include the range of information resources that are available to clients through their State Library, including the public library network. Resources include:

• Heritage collections that we intend to preserve in perpetuity. These collections primarily focus on Western Australian materials, but also include other categories such as rare books, already under our ownership.
• Non-heritage collections that includes reference, specialist and public library collections.

It is not possible however, for us to add to the non-heritage collections indefinitely. We need to remove some old resources that are neither rare nor precious.

Our resources need to cater to the changing needs of the community. In order to maintain fresh and current collections, and use our storage capabilities effectively it is necessary to maintain an active deselection (or weeding) program.

The following factors will guide our deselection decisions.
• Age and relevance
• Client demand (usage) – past and predicted
• Duplication - of the content or item in other accessible resources
• Superceded material where back issues are not required for historical information
• Existing Collection Development Policies
• Significance to the discipline – in particular the focus areas of music, family history, business, children, West Australian and indigenous resources.
• Format obsolescence - for example non-West Australian related
cassette tapes or laser discs
• Condition – although replacement or repair may occur if other factors are seen as important.
• Completeness of the resource

The Library will work cooperatively with other libraries to rationalize duplicate holdings of low use, space hungry resources.

**Disposal of deselected material**
Items will be disposed of through standard ways including:
• Donation or exchange to other libraries or government, charitable or community organizations
• Sale through the State Library book shop or State Library book sales
• Second hand booksellers as appropriate
• Pulping.

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