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Let Go So the Shelves Can Breathe, Weeding

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Browse the shelves of a neighborhood library and you may find yellowed covers, computer guides more than 20 years old and several copies of the same book packed so tightly that the one you actually want is hard to find. If collecting books is a library’s job, does removing them ruin the library? In fact, libraries keep their shelves healthy by regularly picking books out, and this work is called ‘weeding’. Weeding, simply put, means ‘a collection management activity that removes worn-out, inaccurate or no-longer-used materials from the shelves according to set criteria.’ The name comes from pu