



CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

REDUCING THE LIBRARY'S PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS: FAQs

Question	Answer	Notes
What is the timeline for the project?	We expect the Library's physical collection to reduce significantly over the period 2017-2020.	
The briefing document refers to the removal of non-scholarly material and items with a readership level other than tertiary. What is meant by "non-scholarly" and "other than tertiary"?	The intention is remove material that does not effectively contribute to university-level study or research – including, for example, books purchased to support discontinued TAFE programs, or works intended for school students (other than those intended to support current Curtin programs such as the Teaching Resources collection). There is no intention to remove items of popular culture that were purchased to support academic programs in cultural studies.	
Will the items in, e.g. Spanish, which I previously requested for my research, be discarded under the "foreign language readers" heading?	"Foreign language readers" refers only to items purchased as learning aids for students of foreign languages. This heading does not apply to research materials	
How and when will the Library seek advice from relevant academic areas about the reduction to the collections?	We will consult with relevant academic staff through the Library's Faculty Teams in the event that we decide to discard collections in defined discipline areas. The focus of the current project, however, is on removing duplicates and items that are not appropriate to a university	



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	library. The aim is to retain access to scholarly content currently in the Library's collections, either in physical or electronic format.	
Before material is destroyed, can academic staff be given the opportunity to "rescue" it?	The Library is investigating the feasibility of making unwanted material available to Curtin staff or students.	
Are there plans to digitise any original AV items created in-house by Curtin, e.g. oral histories or lectures?	In reviewing the superseded AV material held in the Library we have identified a small number of items which fall into this category. We are currently exploring options for digitisation with the University Archivist.	
Will books I recommended last year be discarded?	No items purchased from 2012 onwards will be discarded in the current project, in accordance with the University's depreciation schedule for Library material. 2012 items will become eligible for discard in 2022.	
Can unwanted material be donated to charities?	This is something we may be able to consider in some circumstances. However, charities are normally not willing to accept large volumes of out-of-date material, and we need to take into account the considerable transport costs that could be involved.	