

## Weed and Feed - Academic Library Style

by Rita Severt, Library Director, Wichita Area Technical College

It is springtime and most people look to the outdoors and the care of their lawns when they think of “weed and feed.” Here at Wichita Area Technical College, we looked to the Library for a “weed and feed!”

I had heard about the idea long ago, but this was the time to act on it. The administration was looking to get rid of all VHS tapes and was planning to copy to DVD (yes, I said copy) all those tapes that were actually being used. Sometimes, it is easier to take action and leave lengthy discussions on copyright for later. This was one of those times. I decided to act on the part of

determining which videos needed to be weeded, which needed new replacements, and which were so overwhelmingly wonderful, they needed to be copied.

The faculty had an Advisory Committee Day where they met for lunch with the representatives from their corporate partners. I was given the morning to work with. At first, the “weed and feed” wasn’t mandatory for faculty, but I insisted on it. I didn’t want to work with stragglers over the next several weeks. It became mandatory.

I was able to order a catered breakfast and not have it come out of my budget, which made the “weed and feed” even more enticing. I pulled the Health Science videos off the shelf and set those up on tables. The rest of the technical tapes stayed on the shelves. I only have about 1500 titles. I used a stoplight system and cut matching cardstock strips that could be slipped inside the covers or videos. “Red” meant get rid of the tape and buy no replacement. “Yellow” meant buy a replacement DVD that closely resembled the tape. “Green” meant “I can’t live without this tape,” so it needs to be copied. Even though the “weed and feed” was only two hours long, it was a relaxing time for the faculty to visit with other faculty they might not see too often. There were discussions about concepts, teaching methods, days-gone-by, and the good food. I was able to add information literacy and advocacy. The weeding wasn’t perfect, but in two short hours, by involving the faculty and having a simple “weed and feed,” the library had become *their* library.



***WATC Staff and Faculty Review the Collection***