

D'Arcy Hutchings  
LS 508 – Exercise 1  
June 9, 2010

### **Radio Statement**

(Note: I prepared this statement as if I was calling in to the radio station to speak briefly on the air (or they have allowed me to call in and record the statement which they later play on the air). I presume that they have given me a brief introduction, such as “We will now hear from D'Arcy Hutchings, director of the Little 'Burb Community Library in response to the Little 'Burb Post article, 'Library Trashes Community Funds.” I have also assumed they have been talking about it on air and that listeners are aware of the article.)

Thank you for allowing me to respond to the article that appeared in this morning's newspaper regarding the disposal of library materials. I understand the author's concern that the library is wasting community resources and I also understand the community's response, given the limited information provided in the article. However, I assure you that removing these 214 non-fiction books from the library collection was necessary in upholding our mission to provide stellar library services to our community.

It is my responsibility as library director to ensure access to quality library resources. The books in question were very out-of-date, so much so that they presented a liability. Imagine a do-it-yourselfer referring to a book of building codes from 1957, a high school student using a biology book from the 1960s for their report, or a nursing student studying with a medical textbook that was written prior to the discovery of AIDS. Though they were valuable when initially purchased decades ago, the books contained information that we now know to be inaccurate. It would be irresponsible for us to continue to provide access to those materials to our community.

In selecting which books to remove, we rigorously followed the library's policies, as approved by the board of directors. All books were grossly out-of-date and had been used rarely or not at all in the past decade. Prior to removal, each book was checked to see if it was considered a classic in the field or if it was listed as a recommended book in various library collection-building resources. To discourage

skewed judgment, both my assistant and I reviewed the titles, each of us concluding that the books should be removed. These 214 books had simply come to the end of their useful life.

I feel it would be inappropriate to dwell on the removal of library materials without discussing what we have added. So far this year, we have added 246 new non-fiction titles to the collection, most on the topics covered in the books we removed. We added 2 new online database subscriptions allowing the community to access information from home, *Consumer Health Complete* and *Oxford Reference Online*. We are in the process of adding a new resume building class to our schedule of library programs target to a variety of age groups and interests. It is your ongoing support that allows us to continue to provide modern materials and the best possible library services to our community.

I understand that the disposal of a couple hundred library books is disconcerting when the situation is not fully understood. I hope I have explained why the items were removed and have thus alleviated your concerns. I encourage all members of the community to contact me directly to discuss this and any other concern they may have about the library. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to respond.

### **What does this have to do with management?**

Everything! As the manager of the library, I am responsible for our operations as well as our public relations. It is my responsibility to ensure that weeding (and any other task) is performed appropriately and according to policy. I initiated the weed so I should be prepared to justify my actions in doing so. Beyond that, as the head of the library, I am its public face. I am responsible for marketing the library, communicating with the public, and in this case, handling damage control. It is my job to respond to the challenge, convince people that we are doing the right thing, and ensure future support. Failing to do so may cause future funding problems, since no one wants to give additional funds to an organization that has so much that they can afford to throw things away.