



Records Retention and Removal

The purpose of the Records Retention and Removal policy is to ensure the proper management of Library records according to law and recommended practice.

1. Confidentiality

Chapter 112, Laws of 1988, provides that any library records that personally identify users of libraries shall be confidential. Any questions regarding access to these records should be directed to the NYS Committee of Open Government.

2. Business Records and Documents

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act addresses the destruction of business records and documents and turns intentional documents destruction into a process that must be carefully monitored. While public libraries currently are not under Sarbanes-Oxley, the law provides guidance on minimum retention requirements.

3. Retention Period of Records

The New York State Education Department Records Retention and Disposition Schedule LGS-1, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, including any future revisions and re-issuances thereof, is adopted by the Library in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

Those records that are described in New York State Education Department Records Retention and Disposition Schedule LGS-1 may not be dispersed until they have met the minimum retention periods described therein. Only those records that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods may be disposed of.

The following chart includes retention periods for the majority of library documents.

Retention Period	Items Retained
Permanently	Audit reports; bylaws and charter; chartering and registration records; checks for important payments or purchases; contracts; current library policies; accident reports; deeds; deeds of gift; depreciation schedules; articles of incorporation; insurance records; legal correspondence; manuscript or published catalog of holdings; Board of Trustee meeting minutes; mortgages and bills of sale; notes and leases; patents and related papers; retirement and pension records; tax returns, worksheets, and exemption letters; trademark registrations and copyrights; year-end financials; all paper copies of the aforementioned

7 Years	Accounts payable ledgers and schedules; expense analyses and distribution schedules; expired contracts; expired mortgages, notes and leases; inventories of products, materials, and supplies; invoices (to customers and from vendors); memorial and donation records; payroll records and summaries; personnel files (terminated employees); timesheets; withholding tax statements; past Library policies
6 Years	Library material censorship and complaint records (including evaluations by staff, patrons' complaints and record of final decision)
3 Years	Bank statements; employment applications; expired insurance policies; internal audit reports
2 Years	Bank reconciliation; correspondence with customers and vendors; duplicate deposit slips; general correspondence
1 Year	Accession records; individual title purchase requisitions which have been filled or are unable to be filled
Until superseded or obsolete	Borrowing or loaning records including interlibrary loan; directory of public library system and member libraries; records documenting selection of books and other library materials; library blueprints

4. Digitization

The Library digitizes certain organizational records as a strategy for saving space, increasing access, reducing retrieval time, or creating back-ups. In such instances, the Library will ensure that the digitized images will accurately and completely reproduce all the information in the records being imaged and will not be rendered unusable due to changing or proprietary technology before their retention and preservation requirements are met.

Digitized items will be retained in accordance with the terms noted in Section 3 and in consideration of appropriate confidentiality and copyright standards.

Amended by the Board of Trustees: 9/28/2011, 10/28/2015, 3/30/2016, 3/29/2017, 3/28/2018, 5/30/2018, 12/23/2020