

Bookshelves full? How to rehome, repurpose, and recycle print books

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Hunt Library

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Too.
Many.
Books.

Rehome: Gift, donate, sell,
trade

Repurpose: Crafts, presents,
prizes

Recycle: Remove hardcovers

Rehome

Send it to Africa!

- Via booksforafrica.org

Donate to a public library's book sale.

Let a do-gooder sell it.

There's almost always a better place than the trashcan!

How to Sell or Trade



Separate out books for potential value

New edition textbooks
Old/rare books
Literature in good condition

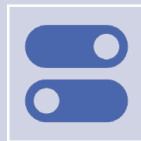


Look up potential resale value on AbeBooks or BookFinder.

You can also sell on your platform of choice.



Determine rarity using Biblio.com or WorldCat.



Register to trade books via PaperbackSwap or BookMooch.

(Nations, 2020).

Repurpose

- Get a child excited about reading
- Provide the BEST door prizes
- Charity baskets
- Neighborhood "free libraries"
- Make something that celebrates the printed word



(Haeko, 2019, CC BY-SA 3.0)

Book Art and Crafts

Ideal way to give damaged books new life

Adjustable to time, needs, and supplies

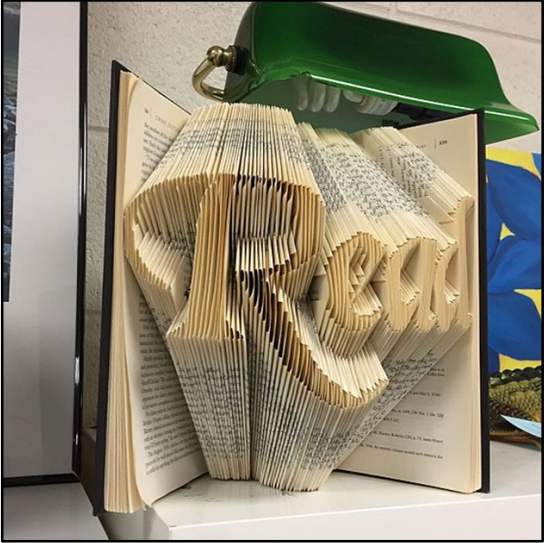
Add a nostalgic or personalized touch to gifts

Many tutorials and ideas online to explore

Examples:

- Paper flowers
- Home decor
- Paper beads and jewelry
- Gift wrap/bags
- Altered books and blackout poetry
- Book Folding and Origami

Examples



Upper: (Handaculture, 2015, CC BY-SA 4.0)

Lower: (Atomicdragon136, 2018, CC BY 3.0)



(Konz, 2022a)



(Tim Ereneta, 2020, CC BY-NC 2.0)



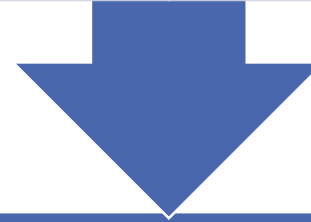
(Konz, 2022b)

Recycle

1. Unbind hardcover books

Tutorial: <https://www.instructables.com/Unbind-a-Hardcover-Book/> (Dancing Fish, n.d.).

Video how to: <https://youtu.be/mx2XfZivPYA> (Solis, 2010).



2. Place in recycling bin

What Would a Library Do?

- "Sustainable Shelves"
- Program through a major library vendor, Baker & Taylor
- Determines resale value or will accept them for recycling & apply credit (Baker & Taylor, 2021b).
- Claims to have saved millions of books from landfills (Baker & Taylor, 2021a).

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Thank you!

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