



DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

Adopted: 08/09/18

Revised: 1/14/2021

The purposes of the Policy include (a) retention and maintenance of documents necessary for the proper functioning of the Walworth-Seely Public Library (WSPL) as well as to comply with applicable legal requirements; (b) destruction of documents which no longer need to be retained; and (c) guidance for the Board of Trustees, WSPL staff and other constituencies with respect to their responsibilities concerning document retention and destruction.

Administration: Library Director shall be the administrator (“Administrator”) in charge of the administration of this Policy. The Administrator’s responsibilities shall include supervising and coordinating the retention and destruction of documents pursuant to this Policy and particularly the Document Retention Schedule included below. The WSPL Library Director shall also be responsible for documenting the actions taken to maintain and/or destroy organization documents and retaining such documentation. The Administrator may also modify the Document Retention Schedule as necessary to comply with law and/or to include additional or revised document categories as may be appropriate to reflect organizational policies and procedures. Modifications must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Privacy: It shall be the responsibility of the WSPL Library Director to determine how privacy laws will apply to the organization’s documents from and with respect to employees and other constituencies; to establish reasonable procedures for compliance with such privacy laws; and to allow for their audit and review on a regular basis.

Electronic Documents and Records: Electronic documents will be retained as if they were paper documents. Therefore, any electronic files that fall into one of the document types on the Document Retention Schedule will be maintained for the appropriate amount of time. Backup and recovery methods will be tested on a regular basis.

Emergency Planning: WSPL’s records will be stored in a safe, secure, and accessible manner. Documents and financial files that are essential to keeping WSPL operating in an emergency will be duplicated or backed up at least every week.

Document Destruction: The WSPL Library Director is responsible for the ongoing process of identifying records, which have met the required retention period, and overseeing their destruction. Destruction of financial and personnel- related documents will be accomplished by shredding. Document destruction will be



suspended immediately, upon any indication of an official investigation or when a lawsuit is filed or appears imminent. Destruction will be reinstated upon conclusion of the investigation.

Compliance: Unauthorized removal or modification of records from WSPL is not permitted. Destruction or disposition of records not in accordance with the Schedule below is prohibited.

Document Retention Schedule:

Document Type

Retention Period

Accounting and Finance

Accounts Payable Ledger and Schedules	6 years
Accounts Receivable Ledger and Schedules	6 years
Annual Financial Statements and Audit Reports	Permanent
Audit Reports, Internal	6 years
Bank Reconciliations	6 years
Bank Statements	6 years
Deposit Books, Checking Account	6 years after date of most recent entry
Deposit Books, Savings Account	6 years after cancellation
Deposit Slips	6 years
Cash Disbursements and Receipts	6 years
Cancelled Checks - routine	6 years
Cancelled Checks - special (taxes, loan payments)	Permanent
Chart of Accounts	Permanent
Check Copies/Stubs	6 years
Claim Sheets (Vouchers) and supporting bills	6 years
Depreciation Schedules	Permanent
General Journal	Permanent
General Ledger	Permanent
Inventories of Materials, Equipment, and Supplies	6 years
Invoices to Customers	6 years
Payroll Records	55 years
Time Cards and Employee Absence Records	6 years

Grants Received and Disbursed



Grant Applications, Proposal Agreements,
Annual Report for Approved Grants 6 years after close
of grant

Corporate and Exemption

Agendas and Other Board Meeting Docs 6 years
Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes Permanent
Bylaws and Amendments Permanent
Charter Permanent
IRS Exemption Determination Letter Permanent
State Exemption Determination Letter Permanent
Licenses and Permits Permanent
Employee Identification (EIN) Permanent

Correspondence and Internal Memoranda

Correspondence and internal memoranda
important to the organization or having lasting
significance Permanent, subject to
review
Correspondence, customers and vendors 2 years

Electronic Mail (Email) to or from the organization

Electronic mail relating to a particular topic otherwise addressed in this Schedule
should be retained for the same period as the topic to which they relate, but may be
retained in hard copy form with the documents to which they relate.
Emails considered important to the organization
Or of lasting significance should be printed and stored Permanent, subject to
review

Employment, Personnel and Retirement

Employee Applications 3 years
Employee Benefit Plans Permanent
Personnel Records (NYS Retirement Recommendation) Permanent
Retirement/Pension records (NYS Retirement) Permanent

Insurance

Accident Reports and Insurance Claims Records Permanent
Property, D&O, Workers' Compensation and
General Liability Insurance Policies Permanent



Legal and Contracts

Contracts, related correspondence and Supporting documentation (Expired)	6 years after termination
Contracts, related correspondence and other Supporting documentation (Still in Effect)	Permanent
Legal Correspondence	Permanent

Management and Miscellaneous

Strategic Plans	6 years after expiration
Policies and Procedures Manual	6 years after superseded

Property - Real and Personal

Property deeds and purchase/sale agreements	Permanent
Property Tax	Permanent
Real Property Leases	Permanent
Personal Property Leases	Permanent

Tax

Annual information returns (W2, W3, 1099, etc.)	Permanent
IRS Rulings	Permanent
Tax Returns and worksheets - Federal & State	Permanent

APPROVED