

MATERIALS SELECTION

The intention of the materials selection policy is to guide library staff in the selection of materials for the Library. Limitations of budget and utilization of space make a selection policy necessary. The Library endorses the ALA Bill of Rights as well as First Amendment rights in building and maintaining the collection. Every effort is made to provide a balanced collection that will provide for the recreational and educational needs of the community. The collection will not promote causes or further specific viewpoints. The collection will reflect the needs and interests of the community with input from the community encouraged and considered.

Responsibility for the selection of materials rests with the Library Director who operates within the framework of this policy. The Director will work with input from other library staff. Factors used in determining selection are: present collection composition; interest level; demand for material; reputation of publisher; timeliness; audience; accuracy of material; authority of author; budgetary considerations and physical limitations of the library.

The Library will purchase most fiction and nonfiction bestsellers unless the material does not comply with most of the above considerations. The Library subscribes to a standing order of popular authors through its book distributor and will continue to do this to ensure receiving bestsellers in a timely manner. Adult nonfiction will focus on how to materials, high interest non-fiction, up to date legal and medical information and local and state history. For children's books, the Library subscribes to standing orders for popular series' and purchases most award winning books each year. These include the Newbery, Caldicott, Coretta Scott King, Batchelder winners and honor books. The Children's Cooperative Book Center publication Choices is also used as a guide in purchasing children's books. The review magazines Booklist and Library Journal are used as guides in purchasing adult and children's books. Youth non-fiction is geared towards high interest titles and formats rather than sets of books that provide broad coverage.

Purchase requests submitted by patrons will be given the same consideration as any other materials purchases using the criteria of the Materials Selection Policy.

Self-published books will be purchased if they are in high demand or there is local interest in the materials, i.e. local author. The library will consider patron requests of self-published works but will do so within the framework of the materials selection policy, recognizing that published reviews will be hard to find.