



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Collection Development is the ongoing process of assessing the materials available for purchase or licensing and making decisions about their inclusion and retention within the Library.

Scope of the Collection

The library materials collection, one of Washoe County Library System's (WCLS) major assets, is developed and managed to meet the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of Washoe County Library customers. Since library systems cannot possibly acquire all print and non-print materials, they must employ a policy of selectivity in acquisitions. The Library System provides, within its financial limitations, a general collection of materials embracing broad areas of knowledge and literary and cultural genres. Included are works of enduring value and timely materials on current issues. Within the framework of these broad objectives, selection is based on community demographics and evidence of areas of interest.

Collections are reviewed and revised on an ongoing basis to meet contemporary needs. Collections are current and popular, not archival, and materials are not needlessly duplicated. Collections provide general coverage of subjects and reflect the characteristics of the community. Materials are withdrawn from the collection to maintain the collection's usefulness, currency and relevance. Withdrawn materials may be sold or used in collaboration with community agencies.

Other community resources and area library resources are taken into consideration when developing collections. Through Interlibrary Loan, librarians may obtain materials from other institutions for the use of WCLS patrons. Information may also be obtained through electronic access and the internet. Information sources made available electronically will be selected using the same principles that are applied to books and other formats. New formats will be considered when a significant portion of the community creates a demand.

The Library supports the individual's right to access ideas and information representing all points of view. To this end, the Library welcomes and solicits patron suggestions, comments and ideas about the collection and its development. The Washoe County Library Board of Trustees has adopted the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement and Freedom to View Statement. The Library recognizes and respects intellectual property rights and conforms to legislative mandates regarding copyright protections.

Collection Development and Management Criteria

To build and maintain a collection of merit, materials are evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria. An item need not meet all of these criteria in order to be acceptable.

- Current and potential relevance to community needs
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Attention by critics and expert reviewers
- Cost
- Requests by the public
- Comprehensiveness
- Skill, competence, purpose of author
- Reputation and significance of author
- Objectivity
- Authenticity of history or social setting
- Consideration of the work as a whole
- Representation of diverse points of view
- Suitability in physical form for library use
- Technical quality

Gifts of Library Materials

WCLS will accept unrestricted, irrevocable gifts of books and other library materials. Gifts and donations are accepted with the understanding that they will be evaluated by the same criteria used to select and purchase materials for addition to the collection. If gifts do not meet these criteria, they may be conveyed to the Friends of Washoe County Library for sales to benefit the Library System, used for Read and Exchange collections, recycled or otherwise disposed of.

Collection Structure

The placement of materials within the libraries is determined by several factors. The Library uses the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme which divides materials by subject. Professional catalogers use Dewey and Library of Congress subject headings to place materials into the proper subject areas and assign them to Adult, Juvenile, Young Adult, Reference or other specific areas of the Library. Reviews by professionals in the field and the librarians' expertise contribute to the proper placement of material.

Washoe County Library respects the rights of children to choose their own materials. It is the responsibility of parents to monitor the materials their children borrow or use in the Library.

Collection Responsibilities

Staff responsibility for the collection rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of the Washoe County Library Collection Development and Management Policy. The Director delegates to staff members authority to interpret and apply this policy in daily operation.

Staff in a centrally organized collection development unit provides continuity in the collections through an organized structure for planning, selecting, acquiring and managing library materials. All staff contributes to the development of collections driven by customer needs and expectations by:

- Engaging in open, continuous communication with customers
- Handling all requests equitably
- Understanding and responding to continually changing demographics, as well as societal and technological changes
- Recognizing that materials of varying complexity and format are necessary to satisfy diverse needs

Intellectual Freedom

A democracy presupposes an informed citizenry, and the public library has an integral role in achieving that goal. The Library provides a neutral environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with the universe of ideas and information spanning the spectrum of knowledge and opinions. The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements are cornerstones of this policy and guide the acquisitions and management of the collection.

Collection development and management decisions are based on the merit of the work as it relates to the Library's mission and its ability to meet the needs and interests of the community. Decisions are not made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval of the material. The inclusion of an item in the Library collection is in no way an endorsement of its contents. Materials are not marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents.

The Library recognizes that some materials may be controversial and that any given item may offend some. Only the individual can define what materials are consistent with her/his own values. Individuals can apply those values to the use of library materials only for themselves. Parents and legal guardians have the responsibility for monitoring their children's use of library materials.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

A singular obligation of the public library is to reflect within its collection differing points of view. Individuals may request reconsideration of a selection decision of library materials by submitting a written request for reconsideration to any Washoe County Library using the form appended to this policy. The Library Director will respond in writing to an individual's written request.

The Washoe County Library Board of Trustees, upon written request to the Board Chair, will hear appeals of the Library Director's written response. Decisions on appeals are based on this policy, the material, careful review of the objection and the American Library Association's Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement and Guidelines on Intellectual Freedom. The final decisions on appeals rest with the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees.

APPROVED: December 15, 2004

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CITIZEN REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND ARTWORK

Author/Artist _____

Title _____

Book _____ Periodical _____ Other _____ Publisher/Date _____

Please state the reason for your request. _____

Have you read/viewed/listened to this work/exhibition in its entirety? _____

What are the positive points of this material? _____

What would you like the Library to do about this work? _____

In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject? _____

Have you read the Washoe County Library Collection Development and Management Policy? _____

Have you read the Washoe County Library Public Use of Bulletin Boards, Exhibit Spaces and Display Spaces Policy? _____

Request initiated by: _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Do you represent:

- Yourself
- Organization (name) _____

Date: _____ Signature of Patron: _____

Date: _____ Received by Staff Member: _____