

Materials Selection Policy

The purpose of this policy is to guide librarians and to inform the public about the rationale used when materials are selected for the library. A policy cannot replace the judgment of librarians, but clear objectives stated in this policy will assist library staff when choosing from a vast array of available materials.

Goals for material selection include:

- Providing resources that fulfill our educational mission
- Advancement of knowledge
- Education and enlightenment of those within our community
- Recreational reading and/or viewing

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library uses the Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read statements adopted by the American Library Association as the foundation of this materials selection policy and process.

Responsibility for Selection:

The final responsibility for materials selection lies with the Library Director. At the Library Director's discretion, selection duties may be delegated to other library staff members as appropriate.

Use of Library Materials

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library recognizes some items may be viewed as controversial and that any given item may offend some customers. Selection will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval. Works will be judged on their merits in order to build a well-rounded collection to better serve the vast and varied interest of all library users.

Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of contents. The ultimate responsibility for library usage by children rests with the parents and legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that library resources may come into the possession of children.

Criteria for Selection:

These guidelines for material selection apply to all purchased or donated items. Several guidelines and combination of guidelines may be used.

General Criteria for Selection:

- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience

- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- Accuracy, appropriateness and effectiveness of medium to content
- Relation to existing collection and other materials on the subject
- Authority/reputation of the author
- Attention given by critics, reviewers and public interest/demand
- Ease of use, availability, price, and format

Demand is a valid factor in selection and shall be considered an important factor when materials are selected.

The collection should contain the various positions expressed on important and complicated or controversial questions, including unpopular or unorthodox positions. This library does not promote a particular view or opinion. Resources are provided in order for individuals to examine issues freely and make their own decisions.

Maintaining the Collection:

Any policy concerning selection of library materials should also incorporate collection maintenance. This includes:

- Keeping materials in attractive and useable condition
- Using the Crew Method of weeding (withdrawal) of outdated or worn materials, as well as withdrawing less essential materials to relieve space issues.
- Inventory to determine materials lost or missing

Reconsideration of Materials:

If any library customer believes that the library has not followed the material selection policy, they may speak with the Library Director at the earliest convenience of both parties. If the customer is not satisfied by the result of the first step, a materials complaint form may be requested from the Library Director, filled out completely and submitted for Library Board review. The Library Board shall consider the complaint and provide a timely, considered response to the library customer. The decision of the Library Board will be final.