

Abington Public Library General Collection Development Policy

Introduction

The goal of the library's collection development process is to develop and maintain a balanced collection that meets the literary, educational, cultural and informational needs of library users and is representative of diverse points of view.

The purpose of the collection development policy is:

To guide the library staff in the selection of materials.

To inform the public about the principles upon which selections are made.

The Abington Public Library has declared the following service priorities in the 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan:

Create Young Readers: Early Literacy

Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing and Listening for Pleasure

Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services

General Principles

Materials to be added to the collection of the Abington Public Library are selected on the merits of a particular work in relation to the needs, interests and demands of the community. The Abington Public Library Board of Library Trustees upholds the principles espoused by the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement, Library Bill of Rights, and Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements. The Abington Public Library does not exclude titles, other than by budgetary limitations or by failure to meet selection criteria. Under no circumstances is any material excluded on the basis of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or political or religious views. The library will provide, whenever possible, materials that represent diverse viewpoints of controversial issues.

The library makes an attempt to judge materials on the whole, not as an isolated part. Any patron who feels that an item is inappropriate may feel free to ask for a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form.. The item will then be reviewed by a staff committee who will take into consideration professional reviews. The committee will submit its recommendation to the Library Director. It is the responsibility of the Library Director and/ or the Board of Library Trustees to determine the library's official response.

Parents or caretakers have the primary responsibility to guide and direct the reading and viewing of their own minor children. Library staff cannot be expected to act in loco parentis in permitting or denying access to any library materials to a patron based on age.

Materials with an emphasis on sex, or containing profane language will not automatically be rejected. Selection will be made on the basis of whether the book presents life in its true proportions, whether characters and situations are realistically presented, and whether the book has literary merit.

The following principles will help to condition selection:

- Contemporary significance or permanent value

- Accuracy

- Authority of author

- Relation of work to existing collection

- Price, format and ease of use

- Scarcity of information in subject area

- Availability of information elsewhere in the community

- Popular demand

- Materials selection will be made after reading at least two reviews from reputable professional journals such as *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *New York Times Book Review*, etc. when possible.

Children's and Young Adult Materials

Please see the library's separate policy statement regarding the selection of materials for children and young adults.

Gifts of Library Materials

Please see the library's separate Gifts and Donations Policy.

Withdrawing of Materials

Materials are withdrawn regularly to ensure that all materials meet selection criteria. Materials may be removed from the collection after evaluation because of unnecessary duplication, poor condition, biased or obsolete content, or disuse. Considerations for space may also be made.

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