

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 Strategic Plan, FY2024 – FY2028* includes the following service priorities:

Literacy and Lifelong Learning

Community Connections

Access for All

Focus on the Future

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 resident cardholder who feels that an item is inappropriate may feel free to ask for a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form. Forms are available at the library.

Upon receipt of a formal, written request, the Director will review the request. The Director will inform the Board of Library Trustees of all requests for reconsideration of library materials. The Director will communicate the results of the formal reconsideration to the person who initiated the request. It is the responsibility of the Library Director and/ or the Board of Library Trustees to determine the library's official response.

Updated by the Board of Library Trustees 11/03/04, 04/12/10, 02/28/2022, 11/21/2022

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.

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*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *New York Times Book Review*, or similar 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.