

BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Collection Development Policy

Selection, Weeding & Challenges

Statement of Purpose

The Barrington Public Library provides materials and resources that meet the interest of the community and support lifelong learning. This policy is established by the Library Board of Trustees to inform the public of the principles upon which the Library makes decisions regarding the maintenance and use of the collection.

Responsibility for Selection of Materials

The responsibility for selection of all print and non-print materials, as well as the management of the materials budget, rests ultimately with the Library Director. The Director may delegate the selection and weeding of materials to other members of the staff as appropriate. Responsibility for choosing what an individual will read or watch rests with the individual. Responsibility for the use of library materials by children and young adults rests with their parents or legal guardians.

Patron demand has a powerful influence on library collection decisions. Circulation, patron purchase, interlibrary loan requests, and reserves levels are monitored to determine current use of the collection and predict future needs. The Barrington Public Library does not attempt to collect materials at a comprehensive or research level for any subject area other than local issues.

The Library does recognize that materials selected for the collection may be controversial and that any given item may offend any individual. Selections will be made, not on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to building the collection as a whole, and to serving the needs of library users in accordance with the Library's stated goals.

Selection Criteria

The following are considered in the selection of library materials:

- Existing collection needs
- Relevance to community needs and interests
- High patron demand
- Significance or reputation of author or publisher
- Attention of critics and reviewers
- Availability of the material or information elsewhere
- Importance of human or social insight
- Representation of current ideas or events
- Diversity of viewpoint
- Budget constraints

The following points are considered in the selection of materials:

1. Objectionable language and vivid descriptions of sex and violence when dealt with realistically within the context of the book will not be criteria for rejecting the book.
2. The responsibility for children's choices in reading material rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection of library material will not be limited by the possibility that it may come into the

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possession of minors.

3. Material is judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not by a part taken out of context.
4. The lack of a review or an unfavorable review shall not be the sole reason for rejecting a title that is in demand. Consideration is given, therefore, to requests of library patrons and books discussed on public media.
5. Due to limited budget and space, the Library cannot purchase all materials that are requested. Interlibrary loan may be used to obtain materials from other libraries in New Hampshire for patron use when a request is outside the scope of the collection.

Tools used in selection include professional journals and online resources, trade journals, subject bibliographies, publishers' promotional materials, and reviews from reputable resources and colleagues in the field. Purchase suggestions from library patrons are welcome and are given serious consideration. Every attempt is made to acquire titles by local authors that are published by mainstream publishers. Titles by local writers that are self-published are not added to the collection unless there is a compelling reason to do so, such as valuable/rare local content or high local interest.

Donations of Materials

Donations of materials are accepted with the understanding that they may be added if they meet established standards for purchased materials, with emphasis on currency, physical condition, and need. Materials not added to the collection may be sold through the Library's ongoing book sale and thus benefit the Library through an alternative path. **(Gift and Donation Policy)** The Library does not evaluate or appraise donations for tax purposes.

Maintaining the Collection

An up-to-date, attractive and useful collection is maintained through a continual withdrawal and replacement process. Replacement of worn volumes is dependent upon condition, current demand, usefulness, recent acquisitions, and availability of newer editions. The ongoing process of 'weeding' is the responsibility of the Library Director and designated staff and is authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Request for Reconsideration

Should a Barrington community member or Barrington Public Library card holder object to a particular item owned by the library, the challenger shall be offered the opportunity to complete a **Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials** Form. See also **Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy**.