

## Materials Selection &amp; Collection Development Policy

## Policy Statement

This policy informs the community of the principles that guide collection development and establishes the criteria for the selection and weeding of library materials.

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## Regulations

1. The goal of selection is to provide collections that meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the customers in the library's service area.
2. The library upholds the following principles of service:
  - A. Provide open, free, non-judgmental access to collections and services regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, language proficiency, social or economic status.
  - B. Support intellectual freedom and promote the dissemination of a wide range of ideas and information representing a variety of viewpoints.
  - C. Create an inviting environment with a broad selection of timely materials that encourages customers to encounter the rich diversity of ideas on which a democratic society depends.
3. The scope of the collections encompasses materials with popular, contemporary appeal as well as those with permanent, historical value in a wide variety of formats. The library also provides collections to support a wide audience including the needs of specific populations such as children, young adults and the disabled.
4. Selection of all materials shall be the responsibility of the library director who operates within the framework of policies determined by the library board of trustees. Under the director's guidance, a staff of librarians with professional education and training selects materials in accordance with state law and the principles and practices of collection development.<sup>1</sup>
5. There are general criteria of quality of content and suitability and sustainability of format taken into consideration for all selections; however, each item within the collection is given individual consideration for selection in terms of its own merit and the audience for whom it is intended.
6. The library monitors advances in print and electronic publishing, as well as future trends and the emergence of new formats, and adjusts the emphasis within collections to reflect the changing times.
7. The library identifies and acquires materials in a number of ways.
  - A. Librarians identify materials for potential purchase through print and electronic selections and reviewed titles in professional journals.
  - B. Librarians elect to automatically purchase periodic new

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<sup>1</sup> MCL 397.605 et seq. Library Privacy Act

- editions of specific titles and the newly published titles from authors with perennial appeal.
- C. The library accepts gift donations of materials which meet the same criteria as purchased materials. See *Gifts and Donations Policy (MGT-02)*.
  - D. The library accepts commemorative requests that are identified with a commemorative bookplate, and integrated into the appropriate collection. *Gifts and Donations Policy (MGT-02)*.
  - E. The library provides the opportunity for resident customers with a valid Harrison Township Public Library (HTPL) card to request purchase of materials not owned by the library by speaking with library staff or contacting the library through its website htlibrary.org.
8. The library attempts to collect materials on a wide range of subjects but may be unable to meet every need with on-site materials.
    - A. Duplication of titles is essential in meeting the public demand for best-sellers and other heavily used materials. The library does not duplicate every title, however, nor can it duplicate specific popular titles in sufficient quantities to fill every request immediately given budget constraints, limited space and the necessity of meeting other collections needs.
    - B. The library participates in consortia and networks to obtain access to information sources and services it cannot provide on its own. As part of these services, customers can borrow print materials from other libraries to fulfill their information needs. See *Interlibrary Loan Policy (CIRC-05)*.
  9. The library does not purchase academic textbooks because, generally, students need textbooks for a lengthy period of time that would exceed the library's loan and renewal periods.
  10. The library keeps its collections vital and useful by retaining and replacing essential materials, and by removing on a systematic and continuous basis those works that are worn, outdated, of little historical significance or no longer in demand. See *Materials Weeding Procedure (CIRC 01.2)*.
  11. The library selects materials and organizes its collection to facilitate customers in making choices about the materials that are appropriate for them.
    - A. The library purchases rated feature films whenever possible.
    - B. The library distinguishes its youth collections by age-appropriate levels.
  12. The acquisition of self-published works, though generally not the norm, will be up to the discretion of the library staff under the guidance of the library director.

13. Any resident who objects to the presence or absence of a work may complete the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials (FORM-02)* form available at the information desk or on the library's website [htlibrary.org](http://htlibrary.org). The library director and board of trustees review these written challenges. The customer is informed of the trustees' decision regarding the challenged material. The decision of the library board is final. See *Reconsideration of Library Materials* policy.

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Harrison Township Public Library Board of Trustees