

I. MISSION OF THE LIBRARY AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

A. Mission Statement of the Library

To best serve the Carver County community, the library will be a provider of resources, spaces, and experiences that enrich and empower people's lives.

B. Purpose of the Collection within the Context of the Mission

The library acts to fulfill its mission by selecting, acquiring, organizing, maintaining, evaluating, and providing access to a collection of materials in print, media, and electronic formats that address and anticipate the interests and needs of the members of a growing and diverse community.

II. PURPOSE OF THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- To inform the public of the principles governing collection development at Carver County Library.
- To constitute a public declaration of the library's commitment to the principles of free access to ideas and information, and to provide collections that reflect a variety of viewpoints.
- To guide staff in making decisions about the selection, maintenance, and retention of library materials.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Collection development at Carver County Library is founded on the principles of intellectual freedom and equal access for all. The library provides a collection that balances viewpoints across a broad spectrum of opinion, subject interests, and skill levels. Using selection practices that are responsive to the changing needs of the community, the library selects, acquires, organizes, maintains, and evaluates collections for the general public while recognizing the needs of special population groups.

A. Intellectual Freedom

The Library subscribes to the principle that the freedom to read and view is essential to our democracy and that unrestricted access to a wide variety of materials is essential to the preservation of a free society. To ensure the rights of the residents of Carver County to a broad range of ideas and concepts, the Library endorses the American Library Associations Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the Freedom to View Statement. (Appended to this policy.)

Decisions to select or retain an item are based on the merits of each work or information source as it relates to the goals and coverage of the overall collection. The library considers the value of each item in its entirety and within the context of the collection, not on specific passages or section in the item itself.

Materials are not marked, labeled, or sequestered to show approval, disapproval, or judgment as to suitability of content for particular audiences. Materials are not excluded, removed, proscribed or suppressed because of their creator's origin, background, or views, or because they represent a particular aspect of life, frankness of expression, or controversial subject matter. Parents and legal guardians have the responsibility for their children's use of library materials.

Inclusion of an item does not constitute endorsement of its content by the Library Board.

B. Access

All library materials are available to all customers. The Library encourages ease of access to materials by using standard library practices to organize, manage, and display materials, by providing staff to assist in locating items, and through the delivery of materials.

The Library is committed to the expeditious and cost-effective delivery of materials and information to its users. To facilitate this, the library participates in interlibrary loan networks to make materials not in the collection available for customers. Electronic resources are made accessible through web-based environments.

In all these efforts, Carver County Library will operate within the provisions of the United States copyright law.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Collection development is a process guided through all its stages by the expertise and judgment of librarians. The Library Director is responsible for the administration of the policy and delegates this responsibility to library professionals. Final responsibility for the direction, purpose, and scope of collection development rests with the Carver County Library Board.

V. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

A. General Criteria

To build a collection of merit, materials are evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria. An item need not meet all of these criteria in order to be added to the collection:

- Customer interest or demand
- Contemporary significance
- Timeliness
- Authority, reputation or qualifications of the author, artist, publisher, or producer
- Suitability of subject and style for the intended audience
- Attention of critics, reviewers, media, and the public
- Suitability of format for the content and for library use
- Relationship to existing collections and other material available on the subject

B. Selection of Materials

Sources for selection decisions include, among others, user requests or recommendations, publisher or vendor catalogs, advertisements, and published reviews. Librarians use their subject knowledge and expertise in combination with accepted standards to select and evaluate collection items. Gifts and purchases are selected using the same criteria. An item need not meet all criteria to be selected.

C. Maintenance and Evaluation of Materials

Condition, content, inherent value, timeliness, and use are the primary criteria used to determine the retention of materials in the collection. The library also removes worn, damaged, and obsolete materials that cannot be repaired and are not longer usable. As demand declines, the library selectively removes multiple copies, making exceptions for areas of special importance to the overall collection. An item that is damaged or lost may be replaced if it is deemed useful and is still available for purchase. Deaccessioned materials may be sold through in-branch or periodic Friends of the Library sales or used in collaboration with other government or community agencies.

D. Gifts

The library gratefully accepts gifts of money and materials under the circumstances outlined in Donations Policy #LB 15.

E. Local Author Collection

In the spirit of reading local, the Carver County Library has a Local Author Collection in order to showcase the emerging literary efforts of our community. This collection will introduce library users to homegrown talent that is not yet nationally known, and give local authors a way to connect with their audiences. For inclusion within the collection, works must meet the guidelines documented in the Local Author Collection submission form.

F. Request for Reconsideration

Individuals may request reconsideration of a selection or classification decision of library materials by submitting a written request for reconsideration form, *Collection Development and Request for Reconsideration*. This form is available at all library locations and on the Library's website. The Library Director will respond in writing to the individual's request. The Carver County Library Board, upon request, hears appeals of the Director's written response. The final decision on appeals rest with the Carver County Library Board.

VI. ADDENDA

American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights

The Freedom to Read Policy Statement

The Freedom to View Policy Statement