

Collection Development Policy

PURPOSE

The Collection Development Policy is intended to provide guidance, within budgetary and space limitations, for the evaluation, selection, and purchase of materials that meet the diverse needs of the Blackfoot community.

To support the First Amendment Rights of citizens of Blackfoot, the Library provides access to a broad and diverse range of ideas. We respect the role of parents/legal guardians to make choices for their children and families.

THE COMMUNITY

The Blackfoot Public Library is supported by, and recognizes as its primary clientele, the residents of the City of Blackfoot, and the Blackfoot Rural Library District. These residents represent a diversity of age, background, religion, ethnicity, culture, education, socioeconomic level, and lifestyle. Library materials will be selected to reflect and meet the needs of our diverse community.

FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND IDEAS

Our selection practice is guided by a set of professional ethics and the core values of intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. Freedom of thought and communication is vital to preserving an open society. Accordingly, the Collection Development Policy mandates the choosing of library resources based on the values of interest, information, and enlightenment for all the people of the community. No resource shall be excluded because of the race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, or the social, political, or religious views of the authors. The Blackfoot Library Board of Trustees has ruled to not include adult graphic novels and “R” rated DVDs into the collection unless they have significant educational value. RE: “Titanic” and “Schindler’s List.”

RESPONSIBILITY OF SELECTION

Responsibility for the selection of materials rests with the Library Director under the authority of the Board of Trustees and state statute. The Library Director may delegate selection of materials to staff members qualified for this duty by education, training, interest and job classification.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection of materials does not mean endorsement of the content by Library staff or the Board of Trustees. The Library collection will be an unbiased and diverse source of information representing as many viewpoints as possible.

- Resources are selected to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of patrons. Collection of material will be classified as adult, juvenile or children.

- Budget and space limitations preclude the library from the specialized and comprehensive collections that exist elsewhere. Access to these collections could be provided through possible interlibrary loans. The Blackfoot Public Library is not a reference library but a library supporting local interests.
- Resources are selected to contribute to the balance and variety of the library collection as a whole. Materials at the library present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make informed choices necessary in a democracy.
- Resources are selected based on popular interest, literary merit, currency and accuracy of information, and items with a local emphasis.
- The quality of binding and packaging and the cost and availability of a resource shall be considered.
- Reviews are used when possible in the selection of new items. The decision to acquire resources is also based upon other criteria such as author interest and reputation, media coverage, popularity exhibited through review of online purchase sites, local significance, and the professional judgment of the Library Director, qualified staff member and Library Board of Trustees.

WITHDRAWAL OF RESOURCES

While patrons are free to object for themselves what they do not approve of, they cannot restrict the freedom of access to others.

The Blackfoot Public Library maintains a policy of withdrawing outdated resources, those no longer of interest or in demand, duplicates, worn or mutilated copies, and resources which no longer contribute to the quality or balance of the total collection. Withdrawal of library materials is vested in the Library Director who authorizes qualified staff to perform this process. Withdrawal of materials is a necessary means to maintain collection vitality, size, and scope.

Withdrawn resources may be sold, exchanged, donated to nonprofit or educational organizations, or recycled at the discretion of the Library Director. Because library resources are purchased with public monies, withdrawn items may not be given to a private individual who does not represent a nonprofit or educational institution even though it is marked for withdrawal.

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