

Collection Development

As part of the Durango Public Library's vision statement, "The Durango Public library enriches the community by providing an environment where information abounds, ideas flow, and imagination thrives," the Library purchases materials in a variety of formats and makes them available to the public.

The Durango Public Library follows the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" (attachment A) and that organization's position statement, Diversity in Collection Development (attachment B).

Durango Public Library professional staff continually gather and analyze data to anticipate demand for materials and improve the usefulness of the library collection.

Selection Criteria

Standards and criteria employed for selection decisions include:

1. Demonstrated significance and interest to La Plata County residents
2. Contemporary significance, popular interest, or permanent value
3. Quality, accuracy, clarity and usability
4. Critic and peer reviews
5. Significance of the creators, including popularity, authority and competence
6. Recent publication date
7. Format and durability
8. Scarcity or availability of materials elsewhere
9. Relationship and importance to the entire collection
10. Value of resource in relation to its cost
11. Physical space required for shelving and display
12. Locally produced or created content that meets standards and criteria outlined above.

Materials do not need to meet all criteria to be selected.

Scope of Collection

1. Durango Public Library adheres to the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the American Library Association and its position statement, Diversity in Collection Development, which focuses on the availability of materials, no matter the belief or viewpoint.
2. The collection is not archival, with the exception of the materials in the Southwest Collection, and is reviewed regularly.
3. Durango Public Library actively seeks to serve and reflect La Plata County's diverse community. We serve all age groups. While most materials are in English, the Library also procures and curates a Spanish Language and English Language Learning collection.

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Formats

In order to meet the community's needs, the Durango Public Library acquires materials in a variety of different formats, including but not limited to: books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, electronic databases and other resources. The same title may be acquired in more than one format to suit patron needs or provide alternative access.

Resource Sharing

Durango Public Library participates in Inter Library Loan services in order to expand the range of materials available to patrons while minimizing the duplication of infrequently used materials owned by other libraries.

Content from Local Artists

Durango Public Library encourages local artists by including content in any format that meets the same standards and criteria as commercially produced content.

Gifts and Donations

All donations become the property of the Durango Public Library. The decision to retain gift items is made by designated library staff. Donations of money for the purchase of materials are always welcome. Suggestions for specific titles, formats or subjects will be honored whenever possible and in keeping with this Collection Development Policy. The Library does not provide or appraise gifts for tax deductions or other purposes, but will acknowledge receipt of gifts in writing if requested by donor.

Retention and Withdrawal of Materials

The Durango Public Library staff assess materials for retention. The standards and criteria employed for retention purposes include:

- Condition
- Demand
- Timeliness
- Number of copies in the collection.

Withdrawn materials are dispensed with in a variety of ways, including donation to other entities, used book sales, waste disposal, and recycling programs.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

All requests for the Durango Public Library to reconsider materials must be made in writing using the Library's Request for Reconsideration of Material form, available upon request. Instructions and guidelines are included within the form.

Responsibility for Selection

The Durango Public Library Director has the authority and responsibility for selection and management of all collections within the framework of this policy. The Library Director entrusts these responsibilities to designated library staff. Library staff welcomes purchase suggestions from its customers. These suggestions are weighed against the standards mentioned above.

Attachment A

American Library Association Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

A history of the Library Bill of Rights is found in the latest edition of the [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#).

American Library Association/ 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611 / 800-545-2433
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Attachment B

Diversity in Collection Development: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

Collection development should reflect the philosophy inherent in Article II of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*: "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

Library collections must represent the diversity of people and ideas in our society. There are many complex facets to any issue, and many contexts in which issues may be expressed, discussed, or interpreted. Librarians have an obligation to select and support access to content on all subjects that meet, as closely as possible, the needs, interests, and abilities of all persons in the community the library serves.

Librarians have a professional responsibility to be inclusive in collection development and in the provision of interlibrary loan. Access to all content legally obtainable should be assured to the user, and policies should not unjustly exclude content even if it is offensive to the librarian or the user. This includes content that reflect a diversity of issues, whether they be, for example, political, economic, religious, social, ethnic, or sexual. A balanced collection reflects a diversity of content, not an equality of numbers.

Collection development responsibilities include selecting content in different formats produced by independent, small and local producers as well as information resources from major producers and distributors. Content should represent the languages commonly used in the library's service community and should include formats that meet the needs of users with disabilities. Collection development and the selection of content should be done according to professional standards and established selection and review procedures. Failure to select resources merely because they may be potentially controversial is censorship, as is withdrawing resources for the same reason.

Over time, individuals, groups, and entities have sought to limit the diversity of library collections. They cite a variety of reasons that include prejudicial language and ideas, political content, economic theory, social philosophies, religious beliefs, sexual content and expression, and other potentially controversial topics. Librarians have a professional responsibility to be fair, just, and equitable and to give all library users equal protection in guarding against violation of the library patron's right to read, view, or listen to content protected by the First Amendment, no matter what the viewpoint of the author, creator, or selector. Librarians have an obligation to protect library collections from removal of content based on personal bias or prejudice.

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Intellectual freedom, the essence of equitable library services, provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored. Librarians must not permit their personal beliefs to influence collection development decisions.

Adopted July 14, 1982, by the ALA Council; amended January 10, 1990; July 2, 2008; and July 1, 2014.

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