

Section 3: Library Collections

3.01 Collection Development Policy

Responsibility for Selection

Although the North Shelby Library Board of Trustees is legally responsible for the operation of the library, the responsibility for the selection of library materials is delegated to the Director of Library Services who authorizes collection development staff members who are library professionals and are knowledgeable in their areas of selection to purchase for their departments.

Selection Process

The majority of the materials selection process is done online through vendor sites. These vendors provide thorough product descriptions which can include cover art, reviews, excerpts, release dates, and sales, print run, or box office figures, all of which facilitate the selection process. Additional materials are selected from review journals, print and online catalogs, awards lists, best seller lists, and promotional mailers. The Library also accepts patron requests which are considered based on the criteria for selection found below.

In general, selection is an ongoing process which includes the following steps:

1. Evaluate the existing collection and assess needs;
2. Consult reputable, professionally prepared selection aids and vendor sites;
3. Keep abreast of high interest titles reviewed in popular media as well as best seller and awards lists;
4. Solicit and consider recommendations for acquisitions from patrons;
5. Judge gift materials by the criteria listed in the "Policy on Gifts to North Shelby Library" accepting or rejecting them on the basis of those criteria;
6. Remove obsolete materials from the collection [see "Collection Maintenance /Weeding Policy"].

Examples of Sources Used during the Selection Process

The staff members in charge of collection development use a variety of resources to assist them in selection. These include:

- Professional journals (e.g. School Library Journal, Booklist, Publisher's Weekly, Kirkus)
- Popular media (e.g. People Magazine, Oprah's Book Club, Book Riot website)
- Best seller lists (e.g. New York Times, USA Today, Amazon)
- Vendor catalogs/selection lists (e.g. Baker & Taylor, Ingram, Midwest Tape, Overdrive)
- Award lists (e.g. National Book Awards, ALA Youth Media Awards, Pulitzers)
- Social reviewing sites (e.g. Goodreads, Common Sense Media, YouTube, TikTok)

Objectives of Selection

In order to assure that the library is a place where information, ideas and resources are available to all patrons the following selection objectives are adopted:

- To provide materials that will enrich and support the personal needs of the users, taking into consideration their varied interests, abilities, and learning styles;
- To provide materials that will stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards in a pluralistic society;
- To provide a background of information which will enable patrons to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
- To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that no one viewpoint is unduly represented.
- To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive media collection appropriate for the users.

Criteria for Selection

The public library is the institution in our society that attempts to provide a diversity of viewpoints on a wide range of topics of interest including political, social, and religious ones – no matter how controversial or objectionable those ideas may be to some people. Selection of books or other library materials shall be made on the basis of their value of interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community. No book or library material shall be excluded because of the race, nationality, religion, sexuality, or the political or social views of the author. A balanced collection reflects a diversity of materials, not an equality of numbers. Materials are chosen representing different points of view, limited only by our selection criteria, budget, and space available in our facilities. The Board of Directors will uphold the principle that censorship is largely an individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject for oneself books which do not meet with the individual's approval, one cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom to read of others. The responsibility for the choice of library material for minors rests with their parents or legal guardians.

Guidelines for Evaluation and Selection of Library Resources

- Reputation and qualifications of the creator(s), publisher(s), or producer(s)
- Community needs, interests, and demand
- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- Relevant to today's world, reflecting problems, aspirations, attitudes, and ideals of society
- Representative of differing viewpoints on controversial subjects
- Clear and accurate with the scope of text or audiovisual presentation appropriate to the needs of the users
- Quality format and value, commensurate with cost and/or need
- Authenticity of voice
- Representative of diverse points of view
- Judgment of the work as a whole

Types of Materials Not Generally Purchased by the Library

- Textbooks or curriculum materials
- Workbooks or journals
- Collector's Editions
- Non-fiction books published more than 5 years ago or that are no longer factually accurate

- Out of print materials
- Items not available through library vendors

Items requested by patrons that fit into these categories or that cannot be purchased due to budget constraints or other considerations will be requested for the patron through ILL (interlibrary loan).

Policy for Gifts to North Shelby Library

The North Shelby Library welcomes gifts of books, periodical subscriptions, works of art, media, other educational materials and equipment, and money for the purchase of library media materials and equipment.

Materials and equipment are accepted with the understanding that the item(s) meet(s) the standards in the library's Collection Development Policy.

Gifts are irrevocable; those weeded from or not added to the collection may be disposed of as the Director of Library Services deems appropriate.

The Director of Library Services under the guidance of the Board of Trustees reserves the right to determine appropriate use, housing, and maintenance of gifts or to delegate that determination to the appropriate staff member.

The Library will not appraise gifts. A donor may request a receipt for the number of items donated.

North Shelby Library hereby states it is currently in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions to the North Shelby Library are deductible charitable contributions to the donor. We have also received sales tax exemption from the State of Alabama Department of Revenue.

Donors will be supplied with appropriate statement regarding any monetary donation which is tax deductible.

Collection Maintenance/ Weeding Policy for North Shelby Library

Both print and non-print materials should be reviewed and evaluated at regular intervals to determine if they are to remain in the current collection. This final step in the selection process ensures the library collection will contain materials that are factual, undamaged, and in-demand. Staff members in charge of collections should consider space, budget, and user needs when deciding how much and how often to weed. Staff members also actively search for replacement items for dated materials.

Depending on condition, materials withdrawn from the collections may be offered for sale through the Friends of the Library groups. Donations and other items not added to the collection may also be included in these sales. Damaged or factually inaccurate materials may be disposed of.

Suggested Criteria for Weeding

Record of use- the item has not circulated for an appropriate amount of time for its collection, generally 1-5 years.

Currency- the subject matter is out-of-date, factually inaccurate, or no longer relevant to current times; illustrations are outmoded or perpetuate gender, racial, or cultural stereotypes.

Technical Quality- non-print materials with poor visuals, faded or off-color visuals; faulty or inferior sound reproductions.

Dispensability- duplicate copies no longer needed in the collection.

Physical Condition- the item is torn, soiled, or worn; pages or parts are missing.

Poor Purchases- materials purchased that were not quality items and/or items not appropriate.

Reliability- non-fiction item which contains factual information inconsistent with other sources.

Short-lived Topics- the item is faddish and no longer of interest.

Subject Areas- the information is not timely.

Dewey Decimal Balance- the item is unneeded to balance the collection.

Careful consideration should be practiced in weeding an item that:

- is a work of historical significance in the field of literature.
- has unusual illustrations or the illustrations are by a well-known artist.
- is a work by a local author or illustrator.
- describes local history or personalities.
- is a memorial gift.

However, North Shelby Library is not an archive or research library and no items are kept indefinitely when they meet criteria for weeding.

Reconsideration Procedures

The North Shelby Library supports the principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association, or final judgments or rulings by a court of competent jurisdiction. However, patrons may request materials be withdrawn or reconsidered and should be afforded every opportunity to express their concerns. If possible, the patrons should be referred immediately to the department head or branch manager.

If a complaint is made, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The department head or branch manager should have a discussion with the patron about the material in question informing the complainant of the selection policies and the procedures for questioning materials.
2. If the patron wishes to pursue the complaint further, the complainant must submit a formal complaint form to the Director of Library Services.
3. The patron will be provided with a written copy of the collection development policy (3.01), the Library Bill of Rights (1.04), the ALA Freedom to Read statement (1.05), and a copy of the reconsideration form (3.01a).
4. Staff should inform the Director of Library Services when a form is given out.
5. Keep challenged materials on the shelves during the reconsideration process.
6. Upon receipt of the completed complaint form, the Director of Library Services will respond to the complainant within 48 hours to inform them of the process.

7. The Director will then request a review of the challenged material by a Review Committee within fifteen business days.
8. The Review Committee will meet once all members have been able to review the material in its entirety.
9. The Director informs the complainant and the Board of Trustees of the decision made by the Review Committee within 48 hours of the decision.
10. The complainant may make a written appeal to the Board of Trustees at least 14 days in advance of a scheduled Board meeting.
11. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

Review Committee

The Review Committee is called by the Director of Library Services and approved by the Board of Trustees. The Review Committee consists of five members, preferably consisting of:

- a Board Member,
- a Friend of the Library,
- a North Shelby Librarian,
- a Librarian from the community,
- and a Library user

The Review Committee takes the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:

- reads, views, or listens to the material in its entirety;
- meets with the other members of the Review Committee and:
 - checks general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended reading lists from reputable sources such as ALA, Booklist, Common Sense Media, or other libraries;
 - determines the extent to which the material supports the selection policy;
 - judges material for its strength and value as a whole and not in part;

At the conclusion of their meeting, the Review Committee will make one of the following decisions:

- Retain the material
- Move to a different collection in the library
- Withdraw from circulation as requested

3.01a Collection Development Policy Appendix A: Request for Reconsideration Form
Reconsideration of Library Resources

The Board of Trustees of the North Shelby Library has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library resources to the Director of Library Services, and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those resources. Completion of this form is the first step in those procedures.

If you wish to request reconsideration of library resources, please return the completed form to Director of Library Services, North Shelby Library, 5521 Cahaba Valley Road, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Do you represent: Yourself
 Organization: _____

Resource on which you are commenting:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DVD/Blu-Ray | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Game | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

Have you examined (read/heard/seen) the material in its entirety? ___ Yes ___ No

Author _____

Title _____

Publisher/Producer _____

What brought this resource to your attention? _____

What concerns you about the resource? Please cite specific passages, pages, etc. (use other side or additional pages if necessary) Are there resources you suggest provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic? Attach more pages, if necessary.

3.01b Collection Development Policy Appendix B: Review Committee

North Shelby Library Review Committee Instructions

Guidelines

Under the best professional standards, reconsideration policies ask those charged with reviewing a challenged book or other resource to set aside their personal beliefs and evaluate the work in light of the objective standards outlined in the library's materials selection policy. Listed below are some best practices for Reconsideration Committee members:

- Bear in mind the principles of the freedom to read and base your decision on these broad principles rather than in defense of individual materials. Based in the First Amendment, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy.
- Read or view all materials referred to you including the full text of the material in question, available reviews, and notices of awards, if applicable.
- Review the library mission statement, materials selection and reconsideration policies, and professional guides such as the Intellectual Freedom Manual.
- The general acceptance of the materials should be checked by consulting standard evaluation aids and your institution's selection policies.
- Challenged materials should not be removed from the collection while under reconsideration.
- Passages or parts of the work in question should not be pulled out of context. The values and faults should be weighed against each other and the opinions based on the materials as a whole.
- The committee's recommendation is to be an objective evaluation of the material within the scope of a library's selection policy.
- The committee's report, presenting both majority and minority opinions, should be presented to the governing body or administrator, as directed in the reconsideration process, with a recommendation to retain the material in its original location, to relocate the material, or to remove the material. The report may differ depending on the type of resource that is being challenged, such as library material, display, curriculum, reading list etc.

Review Committee Discussion Guide

Review Committee members should read, view, or listen to the material in its entirety then meet with other members of the Committee at the designated time to determine if the material should be retained or withdrawn. This guide is designed to help in that discussion.

Title:

Author:

Purpose/theme:

Does the work meet one or more selection criteria from the Collection Development Policy?

- Reputation and qualifications of the creator(s), publisher(s), or producer(s)
- Community needs, interests, and demand
- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- Relevant to today's world, reflecting problems, aspirations, attitudes, and ideals of society
- Representative of differing viewpoints on controversial subjects
- Clear and accurate with the scope of text or audiovisual presentation appropriate to the needs of the users
- Quality format and value, commensurate with cost and/or need
- Authenticity of voice
- Representative of diverse points of view
- Judgment of the work as a whole

Reviews and lists:

The Library will supply reviews of this material and the names of selection lists it appeared on.

Review committee members can also check for additional sources. Please be able to discuss:

- The source of the review or list
- Whether the review was favorable or unfavorable
- Any biases the review or list might contain

Decision

At the conclusion of their meeting, the Review Committee will make one of the following decisions:

- Retain the material
- Move to a different collection in the library
- Withdraw from circulation as requested