

Portsmouth Public Library Selection Policy

For over 130 years the Library has served the City as a gateway to reading, information, culture, community activities, and self-directed learning. It serves those who want to read, to learn, or to connect with our community and our cultural heritage. Since 2007 the worlds of publishing, reading and information gathering have experienced a great deal of change. The Library now strives to meet citizens' needs for materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, and audio and video recordings. In addition, computers, wireless access points, and electronic databases offer up-to-date resources. In all areas of collection development, product licensing and access, selectors will strive to balance collection diversity and demand with attention to available funds and space. It is the goal of collection development to meet the information and recreational needs of the majority of the people who use the Library.

The Library's goals and objectives are developed annually in accordance with the five roles that the Library serves in the community:

Popular Materials Library
Reference Library
Youth's Door to Learning

Community Activities Center
Community Information Center

In all areas of operations the Library adheres to:

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution

The Library Bill of Rights
and its interpretations

The Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association
and its interpretations

The Freedom to View Statement of the American Library Association
and its interpretations

Criteria for Materials Selection

- * Available funds / Initial cost / Cost of maintenance
- * Relevance to Library's mission and service roles
- * Informational and recreational needs of users
- * Potential use / local demand / current usefulness or interest
- * Authority and accuracy
- * Importance as a record of the times
- * Relevance to the existing collection's strengths and weaknesses
- * High standards of quality in content and format
- * Format, durability, and ease of use
- * Suitability of format for subject and user's needs
- * Relevance to the history of Portsmouth and the Seacoast Region

Intellectual Freedom: In accordance with ALA guidelines and in recognition of the importance of free access to information for citizens, selectors will strive to represent all sides of local, regional, national and global issues. It is the goal of the Library to provide access to various opinions, which apply to important, complex, and controversial questions, including unpopular and unorthodox positions. Selectors will strive to find accuracy in information and to consider the value of the material in its entirety.

Weeding-- Materials will be withdrawn when they are judged to be dated, inaccurate, seldom used, in poor condition, or otherwise not in compliance with the Criteria for Materials Selection. Materials judged to be of long term importance for historical or literary reasons, or materials which are needed to round out the collection may be excluded from weeding.

Interlibrary Loan—The Library will maintain an active role in the NH Automated Information System Interlibrary Loan program in order to satisfy the public's need for information that reaches beyond that held by the PPL or licensed to the Library. The Library will seek resources beyond the NH system when possible to further meet public requests for reading material or information.

Gifts—All gifts will be evaluated for addition to the collection according to the criteria for materials selection

Format and Location—Materials will be added to the collection in any format which, in the selector's judgment, best delivers the information and which is most accessible to the public. Individual titles or collections of information will be acquired in multiple formats as needed to fulfill this goal. Materials, both physical and virtual, will be located or displayed with attention to intended audiences.

Adopted by Library Board of Trustees
October 16, 2013