

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## Oshkosh Public Library Collection Development Policy

Open access is the guiding principle directing the development and management of the library's collection. The collection will respond to the community's needs with content that engages, educates and inspires.

### Diversity of Views

The Library will provide access to information and artistic expression representing the widest possible diversity of views, including those which reflect controversial, unorthodox, or even unpopular ideas. Neither the physical presence of an item nor the ability to access it digitally indicates endorsement of its content by the Library. The Library subscribes to and has adopted the American Library Association's Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement and Freedom to View Statement.

### Resource Sharing

The Library is committed to resource sharing and participates in interlibrary loan networks (within the Winnefox Library System, in Wisconsin and throughout the United States) to make materials not in the collection available for patrons.

### Selection Criteria

Materials will be selected for the library collection based on community interests and aspirations; national and international news and events; social trends; professional reviews and staff expertise; and cost. Suggestions for additions to the library collection are welcome from community members and are subject to the same selection criteria as any other material.

The library does not select textbooks; academic; professional, technical or trade materials.

The library will consider selecting self-published titles; however, the library will avoid selecting such titles on subjects that may put the reader at risk if they contain inaccurate information (e.g. personal finance, law, medicine).

### Weeding Criteria

To maintain current and relevant collections the library must continuously evaluate and withdraw materials (also known as "weeding"). Some reasons an item may be weeded include its physical condition; because it contains outdated information; or because interest in its content has declined. Withdrawn material may be donated to other non-profit organizations, sold by the library or discarded.

### Gifts/Donations

The library gratefully accepts gifts of materials. To be added to the collection, items must meet the selection criteria stated above. **Library staff makes all decisions as to the use, housing and final disposition of donations.** The library does not assess the monetary value on gifts, but receipts are provided upon request.

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Cash donations for the purchase of materials in memory or in honor of someone are also welcomed. Donor wishes will be allowed to direct such purchases as long as they are consistent with the selection criteria above.

## **Reconsideration of library materials**

Should a patron question the place of a book or other material in the collection, he or she may submit a "Statement of Concern about Library Resources" form to the Director. This form is available from all public service desks. The patron will receive a written response to their concern. The item in question will not be removed from the collection during the reconsideration process.

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