Collections Development Policy

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By: John Moffitt – pattern and content from Campbell County Wyoming Library

**Section I: Introduction**

Section 1-1: Credits – Revised January 2025

Who worked on policy development?

Section 1-2: Purpose

The primary goal of this policy is to present an official statement of the Meeker Regional Library District Public Library System’s commitment to a collection that attempts to meet the needs of the public it serves. It serves both to guide the Library and to inform the public about the principles upon which selection and maintenance decisions are made. The scope of the collection is intended to offer a choice of format, treatment, and level of difficulty so that needs of individual library users can be met.

Section 1-3: Funding

History and nature of funding

1-4: Community Served

Rio Blanco County is in the northwestern part of Colorado. The library is over 50 miles from major communities or larger public libraries. As of 2022, this large rural county has a population of 6,529 people. The median age is 39.1 years. Median household income is $72,620. 26% have a bachelor’s degree. 10% are US Veterans. (Data obtained from the United States Census Bureau). The predominant industries are open pit coal mining, oil and gas industries, railroads, and agriculture. The service industries supported include business, county agencies, and education. A percentage of the population is involved in the pursuit of higher education offered locally through outreach services and a community college.

**Section II The Selection Process**

Section II-1 Responsibility for Selection

Ultimate responsibility for materials selection in various formats rests with the library director acting on the authority of the Library Board and subject to standards set forth by the Board. The library director delegates responsibilities regarding acquisition, cataloging, and processing of materials as well as developing the professional collection for their area. All staff members may provide input and assistance in the process.

**Section II-2 Selection Guidelines**

The selection of any material for the Library's collection does not constitute an endorsement of its contents. The Library recognizes that many materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. Decisions are not made based on any anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection and to serving the interest of patrons. The Library strives to provide a balanced view on controversial subjects by selecting sources portraying all sides of an issue.

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The primary goal of collection development is to provide materials (i.e. books, audio recordings, DVDs, electronic, etc.) that meet the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community. To meet these goals the Library:

● strives to provide a broad range of materials to meet the varied interests and tastes of all the community.

● strives to provide a balanced collection.

● evaluates patron requests through reviews, or knowledge and popularity of the author or title. Requests are given serious consideration and added to the collection as warranted and as budget allows.

● strives to use dependable distributors to ensure replacement

Influencing Factors

Overall community demand and interest level dictate a strong collection of library materials. Purchases and buying patterns are determined in large part by:

● Historical Value

● Community Values & Standards

● Community requests

● circulation statistics

● budget constraints

● shelf space

● new works

● present and potential relevance to the community

Tools

Tools used include professional journals, trade journals, subject bibliographies, publishers' catalogs and promotional materials, reviews from reputable sources, lists of recommended titles, and sales representatives for specific materials. Interlibrary loan (ILL) activity and purchase suggestions from patrons are also an important source. Standard bibliographic and review sources generally include the following:

Booklist, Horn Book, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Public Library Catalog, Good Reads, Wall Street Journal, New York Times and National Review book reviews. Online reviews are also used.

Criteria

Criteria used include literary merit, enduring value, accuracy, authoritativeness, social significance, importance of subject matter to the collection, timeliness, popular demand, cost, scarcity of material on the subject and availability elsewhere, quality and suitability of the format, and space. Other considerations may be applicable in specific subject areas. Selectors should choose materials that will build a well-rounded collection which includes all viewpoints and opinions, and which meets patrons' needs. Librarians may use reasonable judgment in the selection of titles not specifically identified in the genre collections.

Policy for Protecting Children from Harmful, Sexually Explicit Material in Areas Designated for Minors Reference C.R.S. 24-90-602

It shall be the goal of the Meeker Regional Library System, through its collections policies in areas designated for minors, to meet the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community, especially its children. In curating its collection in the children’s and young adult sections for the benefit of the community, the Meeker Regional Library District Public Library System takes seriously its obligation to not include sex acts or sexually explicit or graphic materials within the children and young adult sections that would be harmful to minors or impede their development.

The term “sex act” or “sexual activity” is defined as any of the following:

1. Penetration of the penis into the vagina or anus.

2. Contact between the mouth and genitalia or mouth and anus or by contact between the genitalia of one person or the genitalia or anus of another person.

3. Contact between the finger, hand, or other body part of one person or the genitalia or anus of another person, except in the course of examination or treatment by a person medically licensed.

4. Ejaculation or orgasm.

5. By use of artificial sex organs or substitutes therefore in contact with genitalia or anus.

6. The touching of another person’s genitals or anus with a finger, hand, or artificial sex organ or other similar device at the direction of another person.

To improve the experience of our community’s children in the Library and conform the entirety of the Library’s collections in the children’s and young adult sections to the standards established by the Library Board and requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) set forth at 20 U.S.C. § 9134 and 47 U.S.C. § 254:

1. The library director shall ensure that, in developing the Library’s collections for minors, no materials added to the children’s and young adult sections of the library’s collections shall include (a) any picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, videocassette, or other visual representation of a person or portion of the human body which depicts sexually suggestive nudity or sexual conduct, sexual excitement, sexual battery, bestiality, or sadomasochistic abuse, which exhibits sex acts as previously defined or which is otherwise harmful to minors as defined by CIPA; or (b) any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter, or sound recording, however reproduced, which contains explicit or detailed descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement or sexual conduct which exhibits sex acts as previously defined or otherwise harmful to minors as defined by CIPA.
2. The sole exception to this policy is that the library director may curate constitutionally protected materials of the type identified in paragraph (1) above for bona fide research by adults but must ensure that such materials are not accessible to minors. The library director shall ensure that all such materials are kept in such a way as to prevent access by children.
3. The library director shall report to the Library Board regularly, but no less often than once every six months, regarding the Library’s compliance with this policy.

**Section II-3 Weeding and Retention**

Weeding

Retention

Reconsideration

**III. Collection Evaluation and Assessment**

The library collection needs continuous evaluation to keep on target with the Library's mission to provide diverse cultural opportunities for reading, learning, and entertainment to all citizens of our community. Collection evaluation and maintenance is a high priority job duty for library managers. Statistical tools such as circulation reports, collection turnover rates, and State Library reports should be used to determine how the collection is being used and how it should change to answer patron needs. The materials themselves should be assessed for their physical condition and their use. Qualitative standards include checking subject areas against standard bibliographic tools and recommended subject lists to be sure that the Library is acquiring recommended materials. Patron input and community/user surveys should also be used to aid in the evaluation of the library materials collection.

**IV. Audiovisual Materials, Adult**

General Comments

Development Plan

Influencing Factors

**V. Electronic Resources, Adult**

General Comments

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Influencing Factors

**VI. Fiction**

General Comments

The Adult Fiction collection is determined by use, popularity, and core collections that have literary meaning and merit. The collection consists of, but is not limited to, popular best-sellers, award-winners, critically acclaimed first time authors, short stories, translations of novels from other languages, historical fiction, adventure, spy/espionage, thriller/suspense, horror, and classics in both print and digital formats. Classics are those titles that have an enduring quality and have withstood the test of time. Classics form the foundation of the fiction collection for student assignments and the reading pleasure of others. The collection also houses the following genre collections shelved separately:

● Mystery consisting of but not limited to whodunit, cozy, suspense, hardboiled, crime/thriller, and noir.

● Science Fiction consisting of but not limited to stories of hard science, science fantasy, alien beings, ecology, galactic empires, the fourth dimension, immortality, lost worlds, extrasensory perception, robots, space travel, time travel, computers and automation in space, swordand-sorcery, and mythology.

● Western consisting of but not limited to stories of adventure, early settlements, frontier and pioneer life.

● Romance consisting of but not limited to historical, contemporary, romantic-suspense, Gothic, period, and family saga.

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**Section VI-2 Graphic Novels – Adult**

General Comments

The graphic novel collection is made up of recreational reading and informational titles in book and digital format for adult readers. These are books that are primarily pictorial, with text and dialog working together to propel the narrative. They are often fiction, nonfiction, or a combination thereof to tell a story using multiple literary devices. They have also been successfully used and enjoyed to promote adult literacy.

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