

Sioux City Public Library Policy
Collection Development Policy

Board Approved: December 1997
Revised: December 16, 2015

The Sioux City Public Library connects people and ideas to empower and enrich our community.
(Mission Statement adopted June, 2009)

The purpose of this policy is to guide library staff selecting materials and to inform the public about the principles driving the systematic growth and management of the Library's collection of print, audio-visual and electronic materials. Collection development is the ongoing process of assessing materials available for purchase or licensing, and making decisions on their inclusion and on their retention.

The Board of Trustees, of the Sioux City Public Library, recognizing the diverse nature of this community, and the varied backgrounds and needs of all its residents, declares as a matter of policy that:

1. Selection of library materials shall be made on the basis of their informational, educational, cultural, or recreational value to the diverse people of this community. Materials shall be selected to represent various points of view. No decision to exclude an item will be based on the creator's race, nationality, morals, sexual orientation, or political, religious or social views.
2. Responsibility for selection of library materials lies with the staff based on the general selection principles appended to this policy, along with suggestions from the public. Ultimate responsibility for selection rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Board of Library Trustees.
3. The Board of Library Trustees holds that personal selection of reading, listening, or viewing materials is an individual matter. While any individual is free to reject for himself/herself library materials that he/she does not approve of, no individual should be able to require this Board to restrict the access of others. Materials selected for any library collection will be accessible to all individuals. The Library subscribes to the principles contained in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read statement, which are appended to this policy statement.
4. Gift materials are subject to the principles enunciated in this policy. Disposition of all gift materials shall be at the discretion of the Library Director or his/her designees.
5. The Library welcomes requests and suggestions from the community. Patron suggestions for purchase will be evaluated in accordance with this policy and collection development plans.
6. The Library welcomes requests and suggestions from the community. User suggestions for purchase will be evaluated in accordance with this policy and collection development plans.
7. To keep the collection current and responsive to the community, outdated or worn items, or materials no longer being used will be systematically culled from the collection.
8. In order to evaluate criticism in a fair and judicious manner, and to effectively safeguard the opinions of all individuals served by the public library, the Trustees subscribe to a "Procedure for Dealing with Serious Patron Complaints Regarding Library Materials," which is appended to this policy statement.
9. This statement of policy shall be reviewed no less than once every three years.