

DENNIS P. McHUGH PIERMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Adopted September 1966, Revised & approved May 2012, revised & approved March 2014

The materials selection policy of the Piermont Public Library strives to implement the general library objectives by providing materials:

1. To facilitate the self-educational, informational and recreational needs of the community.
2. To support the educational, civic and cultural activities of groups and organizations.

These materials will be of the following basic types:

1. Standard core collection items (classics, etc.) from the library's own stock or provided through its link with system library services in the Ramapo Catskill Library System and Southeastern New York Library Resource Council (SENYLRC).
2. Current fiction and nonfiction books. These items may be obtained on either a rental or purchase basis.
3. Audiovisual materials including fiction and nonfiction DVDs, Books on CD; music and spoken word CD.
4. Electronic resources including databases, downloadable electronic books and downloadable audiobooks either from the library's own stock or provided through its link with system library services in the Ramapo Catskill Library System.
5. Other materials may include: periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, pictures, slides, films, music scores, maps, recordings, microfilm, access to computers, the internet and software.

MATERIALS SELECTION

The Library Director shall be responsible for all library materials ordered, aided by supporting staff. It is the library's policy to acquire fiction and non-fiction which suits the broad range of interests and tastes of the community. Materials will be selected according to the general library objectives stated above.

Materials will be selected using a variety of resources including but not limited to professional journals, book reviews, best-seller lists, patron requests, literary awards, etc. The library will strive to provide free access to all points of view on politics and the major religions. The final decision to acquire a particular title in any format for the library's collection will be left to the Library Director's discretion.

CENSORSHIP

The library adheres to the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association and to the Freedom to Read statement prepared by the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council regarding free and equitable access to materials and information.

Materials deemed offensive may be reconsidered. If a patron objects to material in the library's collection the patron may fill out a Challenge Form and submit it to the Library Director. The Library Director will carefully consider the objection in consultation with the Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees. Removal of materials from the library's collection is at the discretion of the Library Director.

WEEDING

An ongoing weeding program shall be carried out by the Library Director. Accepted weeding principles including but not limited to condition, usage and long-term value to the library's patrons shall be used in the decision to discard or replace books and other library materials.

PERIODICALS

Subscriptions to periodicals appropriate for general reading and reference use will be selected, considering the following points: accuracy, local interest, need and demand, price and a representative viewpoint of the subject matter.

LOCAL HISTORY

The library will develop a local history collection of printed and other materials insofar as budget and space limitations permit.

DONATED MATERIALS, GIFTS AND FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The library has partnered with Better World Books to handle donated materials. Anyone wishing to donate materials to the library will be directed to the Better World Books donation bin. Books and other donations/gifts may be accepted on the condition that the Library Director has the final authority in the disposition of any accepted materials. The same principles which are applied to selection of all other materials will be applied to donations/gifts. It is the library's practice in the matter of accepting books or other materials that no conditions are attached by the donor.

TEXTBOOKS

In general, textbooks are not added to satisfy school demands. The Library will not attempt to furnish materials needed for formal courses of study offered by elementary and secondary schools and by institutions of higher learning. The public library has materials for self-study, but is not primarily designed to furnish reading required for academic study. However, the Library will make every effort to secure such materials through inter-library loan.

Textbooks may be added to the collection at the Library Director's discretion to provide information on subjects when there is little or no material available in any other form or when a textbook makes a significant contribution to the collection.