

Wiscasset Public Library – Collection Development Policy

Collection Objectives & Goals

The primary objective of the Wiscasset Public Library (WPL) collection is to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of our patrons by providing information resources in a variety of formats and reading levels in accordance with the mission and goals of this library.

WPL strives to provide the high-quality library resources necessary to meet the changing needs of the community it serves within the limitations of its budget, space and availability. Materials collected include those which are appropriate to our role as a town library and a supporting member of the Maine InfoNet Library System (MILS). WPL also provides a friendly environment to serve as a community meeting space while encouraging curiosity, free inquiry and lifelong learning. Additionally, the library endeavors to make the general public aware of its resources and services.

Collection development goals include:

Providing a balanced range of materials and information resources with consideration for access as well as ownership.

- Giving access to print and non-printed materials in many genres to help support the library's role as a reading center.
- Reference and informational materials of all types to aid in the library's role to support lifelong learning and continuing education for the community.
- High-quality children's and young-adult materials to stimulate a lifelong interest in reading and learning.

In compliance with our constitutional rights of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press, the Library will attempt to provide the widest range of viewpoints based on quality, cost, and availability of materials for purchase.

Responsibility for Selection

The responsibility for selection lies with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of this policy. Staff members within the areas of service to children, young adults, and adults may be designated to do selection under the supervision of the Library Director. The general public and all other staff members are also urged to recommend materials for addition to the collection.

Criteria for Selection

All materials, whether purchased, donated or acquired, are considered in terms of the following criteria:

- Public demand and community interest
 - Selection is based on the merits of a work in relation to the needs, interests, and demands of the community.
 - Popularity of a title and requests from patrons.
- Merits of individual titles
 - Creative literary or technical quality; accuracy and currency of information including depth and breadth of coverage.
 - Reputation, expertise and/or significance of author, illustrator, publisher or producer
 - Treatment of subject for age or intended audience.
 - Reviews and critical assessments in a variety of journals or resources.
 - Judgement of the work as a whole, not on parts taken out of context.
- Collection goals
 - Contemporary significance or permanent value of material in relation to a key movement, genre, trend or culture.
 - Relationship to existing collection as it pertains to contributing balanced, up-to-date coverage in a variety of different subject areas.
 - Representation of diverse and multicultural points of view
 - Materials accessible to patrons with different learning abilities, educational levels, and physical needs, for example large print and audio formats.
 - Public information, resources and documents of current and future relevance to the local or surrounding communities.
- Financial considerations
 - Includes price and availability, value for cost of information resource, and funds within the library budget

Guidelines for Specific Subject Areas and Formats

Fiction – Current adult fiction is purchased extensively with particular emphasis on popular works and examples within a genre. The collection includes works for recreational reading, classical literature, and special interest materials. Works of genre fiction, short stories and acclaimed novels are selectively purchased to reflect community demand.

Non-Fiction – The Library collects recognized and standard works as well as timely materials to meet current demand. Materials are available for all ages and reading levels in a variety of formats. Nonfiction titles may be excluded for inaccurate information, sensationalism,

subjective content, the intent to promote hatred or intolerance, and information that is too limited or specialized.

Audiovisual Collection – The Library supplies patrons with music and audiobooks in the form of play-away audio players for children, compact discs, and video recordings on DVD. The music collection represents significant performers, composers, and styles of popular and classical music. Selection is based on quality of content, performance, production and diversity. Fiction and nonfiction audiobooks are chosen according to the same criteria as books, with additional consideration for quality of content and recorded production. Video recordings include contemporary and classic feature films as well as presentations in music, dance, theatre and comedy. Nonfiction video includes a variety of general subjects intended for a wide audience. Other forms of audio and video may be purchased as technology advances.

Downloadable E-books and Audiobooks – The Library provides access to an extensive collection of downloadable E-books and audiobooks through membership in the Cloud Library service.

Periodicals –The Library subscribes to a number of local and regional newspapers as well as several popular magazines. Selection of adult and children’s periodicals is based on community interest, budget, and space considerations. Magazines and newspapers are acquired for both casual reading and research purposes.

Reference – The Library’s Reference Collection provides accurate, timely information on a wide range of subjects of current and frequent interest for the general public. Materials include printed resources and online databases. Online products are available for use via the Digital Maine Library. Factors considered in selecting reference materials are authority, reliability, scope, arrangement, format, cost and existing holdings.

Local Authors – An effort is made to collect titles by local authors, artists, and producers which are published by mainstream publishers, and whose work fits the criteria of the collection development policy. Self-published titles are not added to the collection, unless library staff feels a strong reason to do so.

Children’s and Young Adult Materials – The Library collects print and audiovisual materials to help encourage and inspire the needs of our children’s and young adult’s needs for information. Materials for children include picture books, chapter books, non-fiction materials, DVDs and magazines. Young adult resources include fiction and nonfiction materials, graphic novels and manga. We also maintain a collection of multi-age STEM kits to promote hands-on learning in the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

As noted in the *Free Access for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*, “Parents and only parents have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children – and

only their children – to library resources. Librarians and governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to provide equal access to all library resources for all library users.”

Genealogy, Local History and Special Collections – Copies of local history books of Wiscasset and other local towns are acquired for the circulating, reference, and special collection. Basic genealogical handbooks have been added to the collection for circulating. Local history and genealogy at the research level is contained within the Jane S. Tucker Genealogical Archives.

Donations

WPL accepts gifts of books and other materials with the understanding that they will be added to the collection only if appropriate and needed. If materials are not needed due to duplication, condition, or outdated information, the library staff may dispose as they see fit. This includes sending donations to the Used Book Room for sale.

Deselection and Weeding

Materials which are no longer appropriate for the collection based on out-of-date or incorrect content, poor condition, irrelevant to the needs and interests of the community, or lack of use, shall be identified by appropriate staff members and discarded from the collection. Discards shall be made according to current, and accepted professional practices. Materials discarded due to loss, vandalism, poor condition or outdated content will be considered for replacement. Deaccessioned materials will be made based on the Library Director’s discretion.

Objection to Library Materials

Wiscasset Public Library provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored. WPL also endorses the ALA Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read statement. These statements honor the rights of individuals to use WPL resources regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, or societal or political views.

If an individual wishes to express concern about objects or particular library materials, complaints can be addressed with the Library Director in writing. The Library Director will review the title, evaluate the decision for the purchase, meet with library staff, and the individual to review the complaint. The Library Director will then make a written ruling based on the Collection Development policy.