

Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The East Haddam Library System Collection Development Policy reflects as much as possible the mission of the Library: "...to providing the citizens of East Haddam with quality educational and recreational resources which cultivate literacy, knowledge, personal growth, community spirit, and a higher quality of life." This policy sets the guidelines for Library staff in the selection of materials for the Library and informs the public of the principles upon which selections are made.

Responsibility

The final responsibility for selecting library materials rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework established by The Board of Trustees of the East Haddam Library System. The Director delegates selection responsibility of Library materials to the Library's professional staff, whose education and experience prepare them for this important function. There are several staff members who are responsible for the selection of materials and collection maintenance for the Library. These designated staff shall order, process, maintain, and withdraw items for the adult, teen, and children's departments for the purpose of curating collections that will reflect the definition of a public Library core collection as defined by the Library Bill of Rights and the American Library Association.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Library recognizes not all users will greet all materials with the same degree of enthusiasm and regard. Therefore, some materials selected for the collections may seem controversial and even distasteful to some Library users. It is the right of the individual not to read, view, or hear materials that the individual considers objectionable. It is never the right of any Library user or users to deny access to Library materials to others. The freedom to choose from a broad range of informational and artistic materials will not be abridged. When evaluating library materials the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements from the American Library Association are used as guiding documents.

General Selection Criteria

The East Haddam Library System selects, acquires, organizes, and preserves Library materials both of current interest and of permanent value. Content, quality of writing, and readability are major considerations. The following criteria are applied to materials of all formats, including books, periodicals, A/V materials, and others. However, the criteria are not intended to exclude consideration of standards appropriate to particular formats of materials. While a single standard cannot be applied to each work, the following general criteria are used in selecting materials for purchase or subscription by the Library:

- Importance and value to the collection
- Reputation, credibility, and/or authoritativeness of the author, artist, publisher, or producer
- Current and anticipated appeal, popular demand, and timeliness
- Significance of the subject matter
- Local interest
- Availability or scarcity of materials on the subject
- Cost
- Level of difficulty and specialization
- Professional reviews, summaries, and descriptions of materials
- Format suitability
- Space availability/constraints
- Accessibility to materials within the LION consortium
- Physical quality and level of durability

Some of the materials not collected: abridged books, text books, and self-published works.

Gifts

Forms for bequests, donations, and honor or memorial gifts are on the Library's website and at the Library. People who donate items do so with the understanding that the items become the property of the Library in accordance with our Gift & Donation Policy. The library does not appraise gifts nor provide evaluations of gifts for tax purposes. Library staff will add items to the collection only if deemed in line with the above criteria.

Library Patron Suggestions

The East Haddam Library System recognizes the importance of hearing from the public regarding material selection. The Library Administration and Staff seriously consider suggestions made by East Haddam residents and taxpayers. The completion of the Form for Recommendation of Library Material or Request for Reconsideration of Library Material does not guarantee either accession to the collection or removal from the collection, but does ensure the attention of Library Staff to user opinion, interests, and concerns.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees 5/11/2023