

RATIONALE

Libraries have a clear and unalterable responsibility for the dissemination of knowledge and of making knowledge available to all individuals. The public library is a repository for the free expressions of free individuals, where others, equally free, may come to study and learn all sides of an issue; to evaluate them; and to seek the truth out of such study. The freedom to read is essential to our democracy.

Historically, the public library was developed as an agency for the free, public, informal education of the individual. Now, as always in our history, books and information resources are among our greatest instruments of freedom and knowledge. Library Resources are the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice, from which come the original contributions to social growth. They are the source of mankind's history, knowledge, and ideas from the beginning of the recorded word. They are essential to the extended discussion which serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

The Library is aware that one or more persons may take issue with the selection of any specific item, and encourages any expression of opinion by patrons, but does not undertake the task of pleasing all patrons by the elimination of items purchased after due deliberation under the guidance of the policies expressed herein. To provide a resource where the free individual can examine many points of view and make his-her own decisions is one of the essential purposes of the library. A truly great library has something in it to offend everyone.

Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections. The presence of a book, magazine, or other item in the library does not indicate an endorsement of its contents by the library.

Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and inoffensive. It is in the public interest for libraries to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.

A. Materials Selection Policy

The Materials Selection Policy sets forth the general standards to be used in selection and circulation of all materials for the Gibsons & District Public Library as well as reflecting the mission statement of connecting our community to the world of culture, knowledge and ideas.

The Board of Trustees of the Gibsons & District Public Library believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that, while everyone is free to reject for themselves materials of which they do not approve, they cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict freedom of others to read or inquire.

The Board of Trustees of the Gibsons & District Public Library adopts and declares that it will adhere to, and support the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom.

Materials selected should conform to the interests and needs of the residents of the Gibsons area, without being restricted by them. Materials which may not be of general interest but may be used to increase knowledge and understanding, should also be considered for purchase.

The inclusion of materials will be dependent on the expertise of the staff, of professional critical reviews, and of qualified book reviews in book selection journals.

B. Selection Criteria of Materials

The words "library materials," as they occur in this policy, have the widest possible meaning.

"Selection" refers to the decision that must be made either to add a given title to the collection or withdraw one already in the collection.

All material must meet the following specific criteria: it must have either current usefulness or permanent value, it must have either a relation to the present collection or fill a gap in the present collection, and it must be well made. An attempt is made to limit purchases of specialized materials for which there might be demand from only a few members of the community.

Gibsons & District Public Library Collection Development Policy
Revised 2021

1. Materials selected should meet standards of factual accuracy, significance, and responsibility of opinion. They should meet literary standards of the period in which they were written. Both works of literature and informational materials should be written in a language and style suitable to their content and the author's purpose.
2. The responsibility for selecting circulating and reference material resides with the Library Director and under his/her direction such members of the staff who are qualified by reason of professional education and training.
3. The selection of all library materials should be as objective as possible, not affected by the selector's own beliefs and with all sides of controversial issues represented in the library's collection.
4. While a high level of quality is always desirable in a new acquisition, flexibility must be exercised in the development of a well-rounded, comprehensive and relevant collection.
5. It is not the purpose of the collection to take the place of the school library, although many of its books and materials may be used by students to augment school library collections. It is the responsibility of the public school system to supply these curriculum needs.
6. Responsibility for the reading and viewing habits of children rests with the parents or legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that material may come into the possession of children.
7. Materials will be judged as a whole rather than on isolated passages.
8. Much unsolicited material comes free from organizations or individuals whose objectives are propaganda or advertising. Those which distort recognized facts, intrude commercial messages unduly, or contain misleading statements are not added.
9. The library is opposed to the removal from its shelves, at the request of any individual or group, books or materials which have been chosen according to the Materials Selection Policy. Furthermore, the Library will oppose coercion on the part of an individual or group seeking to have books or materials added to the shelves contrary to the Materials Selection Policy.

Gibsons & District Public Library Collection Development Policy
Revised 2021

10. Materials are to be selected in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

- i. Popular demand.
- ii. Contemporary significance or permanent value.
- iii. Scope and authority of the subject matter.
- iv. Reputation and/or authority of the author, editor or illustrator.
- v. Literary merit.
- vi. Relationship to the existing collection and to other materials on the subject.
- vii. Price and availability.
- viii. Format and arrangement.
- ix. Scarcity of information in the subject area.
- x. Availability of material in the area.
- xi. Attention of critics, reviewers, and the media.

Special Collections

Provincial and Local history

The library emphasizes its role in the collection, organization and provision for research of materials, which shed light on the historical development of our province, the Sunshine Coast and Gibsons. The library acknowledges a particular interest in the local history of the area and in the works of local authors and artists. Everything reasonably obtainable will be acquired and preserved.

Legal and Medical: The Library purchases legal and medical materials intended for the general reader.

Religion: The Library will attempt to acquire major works representing all doctrinal beliefs without prejudice. Minor works and works considered propaganda/promotional shall be purchased for the collection only if there is significant interest or demand.

Textbooks: The library will collect textbooks if they are the only source of information on a subject deemed of interest to library users. The library will not attempt to acquire texts to provide basic curriculum support for schools (elementary – post-secondary).

D. Public request for materials.

Suggestions for library purchases from members of the library community are welcomed and encouraged. All suggestions will be reviewed according to established selection criteria.

E. Gifts and Donations

The library welcomes gifts and donations of materials and money for improving the library's material collection with the understanding that donated material and money becomes the sole property of the library who makes the final decision on the disposition of the gift and donation.

The decision to receive and include a gift in the library's collection shall be made by the Library Director who will be guided by the same principles and criteria applied to the selection of an item for purchase.

Monetary donations and memorial contributions may be expended in an appropriate Dewey Decimal Classification Main Class if requested by the donor.

The library will not attempt to appraise or establish a value for the worth of donated material. Materials donated and professionally appraised will receive a tax receipt.

The library will accept a donation under the following conditions:

Gibsons & District Public Library Collection Development Policy
Revised 2021

1. No restriction is placed by the donor on the placement of the material in the library's collection.
2. If the library cannot use the donation at its discretion, it will be handled in the following way:
 - a. Put up for purchase by patrons in our pay what you can display, or
 - b. Discarded.

F. Reasons for not adding materials to the Library's collection

Materials do not conform to the Materials Selection Policy.

Materials are out-of-date and are not of historical value.

Materials are an unnecessary duplication of items already in the collection.

Materials are in poor physical condition.

G. Collection Maintenance

The following general criteria will be used to select items for discard:

1. Dated material with little or no permanent value.
2. Rarely used material with little or no permanent value.
3. Misleading or factually inaccurate material.
4. Materials worn beyond reasonable repair or mending.
5. Material superseded by a new edition or a better title.
6. Trivial material of little or no permanent value.

H. Access to the collection

1. All materials except those deemed likely to be stolen or vandalized will be kept on open shelves in the library, available to all patrons/users.
2. Children may use any collection in the library, subject to the supervision of their parents. It is the responsibility and prerogative of the parents to develop, interpret and model their code of conduct and values in their own home, and the Library will not usurp parental authority by censoring materials available to children.
3. Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of the contents, and nothing will be sequestered except for the express purpose of protecting it from mutilation or theft.