



Lake Oswego Public Library Materials Collection Policy

General Philosophy

The Lake Oswego Public Library's collection serves as an informational, educational and cultural resource for the public. The Library's collection also provides opportunity for entertainment or personal enrichment. The Library upholds the rights of individuals to freely express thoughts, ideas, and feelings, regardless of how popular or unpopular their points of view may be. The Library affirms the rights of all members of the community to access published materials.

Access to the Collection

It is the Library's policy to provide the public with free access to Library collections. These will be organized, marked and maintained to help members of the public locate materials. Library materials will not be labeled, altered or sequestered because of any controversy that may surround the subject matter or author.

While anyone is free to select or reject materials for themselves, the freedom of others to read, listen, or view will not be restricted. The Library does not stand in the place of parents (in loco parentis). Parents and guardians, therefore, have the responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening and viewing choices of their own children.

Collection Scope

Within the limitations of budget, space and availability, the Library provides materials in a variety of established and emerging formats in an effort to meet and anticipate community needs, interests and abilities. The diverse collection helps to fulfill the Library's role as a community resource for information and enrichment. Materials are supplied on a full range of subjects, presenting differing points of view on current and historical issues, in an effort to provide a holistic collection as well as to satisfy the interests of every segment of the community at all age levels.

Withdrawn Materials

According to accepted, professional practices, materials which are no longer useful will be systematically weeded from the collection. Materials that are considered for withdrawal include damaged or worn items, titles that are outdated, and titles that have not circulated frequently or for a long period of time. Other factors impacting the withdrawal decision include but are not limited to the following: whether updated or revised materials may replace them, whether the item can be mended or repaired, whether the item is out of print, whether another title might better serve the same purpose, whether the material is no longer of sufficient interest to the community, and whether the item has historical value. At the Library's discretion, withdrawn materials are offered to the Booktique. Items that the Booktique does not want or need are either offered for sale to the public, donated to local charities or discarded.

Citizen Requests and Challenges

The Library staff welcomes comments and communication from the public on its materials.

Patrons may request the Library to consider purchase of any item for its collection, and their suggestions will be considered according to the Library's Materials Collection Policy.

Patrons may request the Library to consider withdrawal of any item from its collection. A formal request must be submitted on a Request for Reconsideration form, available from any public service desk. The item in question will be reviewed according to the Library's Materials Collection Policy. The person submitting the request will be advised by the collection's operating Manager, within 30 days, of the action taken. Such action may be appealed to the Library Advisory Board within 30 days of notification. The Library Advisory Board will review the appeal and make a recommendation to the Library Director for a final decision.

Adopted by the Library Advisory Board; amended May 8, 2019.