

Mesa County Public Library District – Board of Trustees

**Purpose:**

Mesa County Libraries provide a variety of materials in physical and electronic formats for reading, viewing, and listening, with highly trained staff members available for assistance. Mesa County Libraries adheres to the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights* by providing access to materials and information that express varying points of view on issues. Furthermore, the Library will not exclude items or content based on the creator's origin, background, or opinions.

- a. Mesa County Libraries assist patrons to find, evaluate, use, and create information and content effectively.
- b. Mesa County Libraries support school readiness and continued educational success for youth.
- c. Mesa County Libraries foster civic engagement, cultural awareness, strong enterprises, and community partnerships.

**I. Standards and criteria employed for selection decisions include:**

- a. Demonstrated interest, need, or demand by library users or potential users.
- b. Contemporary significance, popular interest, or permanent value.
- c. Relevance to the experiences and interests of Mesa County residents.
- d. Quality, including accuracy, clarity, usability.
- e. Critics' reviews or peer reviews.
- f. Significance of the author, including popularity, authority, and competence of the author/artist.
- g. Recent publication date or currency.
- h. Format, durability, and ease of use.
- i. Scarcity or availability of materials elsewhere.
- j. Value of resource in relation to its cost.
- k. Local significance or interest.
- l. Locally produced or created content that meets standards and criteria outlined above.

**II. Scope:**

- a. The Library does not sanction particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given item equivalent to an endorsement of the author's viewpoint. The Library adheres to the *Library Bill of Rights* adopted by the American Library Association, which affirms that our libraries are forums for information and ideas.
- b. The collection is not archival, with the exception of materials in the Rashleigh Regional History Room, and is reviewed on an on-going basis.

- c. The Library supports our local youth with their school readiness and continued education, by regularly purchasing materials and content to help augment local school districts, private schools, and homeschools' curricula, provide homework help resources, and offer materials that aid higher education or vocational pursuits.
- d. The Library actively seeks to serve and reflect our diverse community. While most materials acquired are in English, the Library also aggressively acquires significant and diverse collections of materials predominantly in Spanish, and acquires language learning and recreational reading materials in other locally-significant languages as well.

### III. Formats:

The Library acquires materials in a variety of formats such as but not limited to:

- a. Books, both in hardcover and paperback.
- b. Periodicals and newspapers.
- c. Audio CDs.
- d. Video DVDs.
- e. Electronic databases.
- f. Digital books, music, art and videos

In many circumstances, the same title may be acquired in more than one format. A sound recording of a popular work may be acquired to meet the needs of certain users even when print copies are available. Popular works may be acquired in online format when access to them via a computer network may be preferable to ownership of them.

### IV. Content from Local Artists:

The library is committed to developing and integrating locally created content in every format that meets the same standards and criteria as commercially produced content. The library cannot and will not commit to *any and all* local content, but will exercise the same discretion and discrimination in the acquisition and cataloguing of local content as it does with commercial content. In such acquisition the library is committed to transparency and integrity in its dealing with local artists.

### V. Gifts and Donations:

All donations become the property of the Library. The decision to retain gift items is made by designated library staff. Donations of money for the purchase of materials are always welcome. Suggestions of specific titles or subjects to be purchased with donated funds will be honored whenever possible and in keeping with Library materials selection policy. The Library does not appraise gifts or provide evaluations of gifts for tax deductions or other purposes, but will acknowledge receipt of gifts in writing if requested by the donor.

### VI. Retention and Withdrawal of Materials:

In order to maintain a collection of current and relevant library materials that meet the needs of Mesa County residents, the Library staff assesses materials for retention. The standards and criteria employed for decisions include:

- a. Condition
- b. Demand
- c. Timeliness
- d. Availability elsewhere
- e. Number of copies in the collection

Withdrawn materials are dispensed with in a variety of ways, including donation to other entities, used book sales, waste disposal, and recycling programs.

#### **VII. Reconsideration of Library Materials**

All requests for the Library to reconsider materials must be made in writing using the Library's Request for Reconsideration form, which is available at any Mesa County Library location. Instructions and guidelines are included with the form.

This Collection Development Policy was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Library Board of Trustees in their regularly-scheduled meeting on December 5, 2013.

*(Supersedes: Collection Development Policy, 4/30/09)*



Barry Blanchard, President

MCPLD Board of Trustees