



Mesa County Libraries (MCL) acquire materials and resources that enrich lives and build community through opportunities to learn, discover, create, and connect. This policy guides staff decisions regarding selection and deselection of library materials to ensure collections that are useful, relevant, current, and integral to the diverse communities MCL serves. MCL adheres to the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights by providing access to materials and information that express varying points of view. Furthermore, MCL will not exclude items or content based on the creator's origin, background, or opinions. MCL staff continually gather and analyze data, including circulation statistics, survey results, and patron requests and comments, to anticipate demand for new materials and improve the usefulness of library collections.

Selection Criteria

MCL selects materials based on educational, informational, and recreational value. Standards and criteria employed for selection decisions include:

1. Demonstrated interest, need, or demand by current or potential patrons, including patron requests
2. Contemporary significance, popular interest, or permanent value
3. Relevance to the experiences and interests of Mesa County residents
4. Quality, accuracy, clarity, and usability
5. Critics' reviews or peer reviews
6. Significance of the creators, including their popularity, authority, and competence
7. Recent publication date or currency
8. Format, durability, and ease of use
9. Scarcity or availability of materials elsewhere
10. Relationship and importance to the entire collection
11. Value of resource in relation to its cost
12. Physical space required for shelving and display
13. Local significance or interest
14. Locally produced or created content that meets standards and criteria outlined above

Materials need not meet all criteria to be selected.

Scope of Collection

1. MCL does not sanction particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given item equivalent to an endorsement of the creator's viewpoint. MCL adheres to the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the American Library Association, which affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas.
2. The collection is not archival, with the exception of materials in the Rashleigh Regional History Room, and is reviewed regularly.
3. MCL supports local youth with school readiness and continued education by regularly purchasing materials and content to help augment local school district, private school, and homeschool curricula;





providing homework help resources; and offering materials that aid higher education or vocational pursuits.

4. MCL actively seeks to serve and reflect Mesa County's diverse community. While most materials acquired are in English, MCL also procures significant and diverse collections of materials in Spanish and acquires language learning and recreational reading materials in other locally significant languages.

Formats

In order to meet the entire community's needs, MCL acquires materials in a variety of formats such as books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and electronic databases and other eResources. In many circumstances, the same title may be acquired in more than one format to suit patrons' needs or preferences, fill popular demand, or provide alternative access.

Resource Sharing

MCL participates in several cooperative resource sharing networks, including Marmot, Prospector, and an interlibrary loan service, to expand the range of materials available to patrons while minimizing duplication of infrequently used materials owned by other libraries.

Content from Local Artists

MCL is committed to developing and integrating locally created content in any format that meets the same standards and criteria as commercially produced content. MCL cannot commit to 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, MCL is committed to transparency and integrity in its dealing with local artists.

Gifts and Donations

All donations become property of MCL. 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 this Collection Development Policy. MCL 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.

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, library staff assess materials for retention. The standards and criteria employed for retention decisions include:

- Condition
- Demand
- Timeliness





- Availability elsewhere
- 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.

Responsibility for Selection

The Mesa County Libraries Board of Trustees delegates to the Library Director the authority and responsibility for selection and management of all collections within the framework of this policy. The Library Director entrusts these responsibilities to professional staff in the Collection Management team.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

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

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED ON August 27, 2020.

Barry Blanchard

Barry Blanchard – MCPLD Board President

Chris Mahre

Chris Mahre – MCPLD Board Secretary

