



Mesa County Libraries (MCL) provide free and convenient access to the widest range possible of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas, allowing individuals 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 recognizes that it is impossible to collect all that is published. Physical space and a finite budget will limit what we can purchase for the residents of Mesa County. MCL regards its collection as one shared collection, distributed between its various locations to meet the educational, recreational, cultural, and informational needs of the communities we serve. These needs are determined by circulation statistics, community demographic information, surveys, patron requests, and by professional judgment based on events and trends within the community.

Selection Criteria

Not all criteria needs to be met for materials to be selected, but because of limitations of budget and space, materials that meet most of the criteria will be prioritized. Standards and criteria employed for selection decisions include:

- Demonstrated interest, need, or demand by current or potential patrons, including patron requests
- Contemporary significance, popular interest, or permanent value
- Relevance to the experiences and interests of Mesa County residents
- Quality, accuracy, clarity, and usability
- Critics' reviews or peer reviews
- Significance of the creators, including their popularity and authority
- Recent publication date or currency
- Format, durability, and ease of use
- Scarcity or availability of materials elsewhere
- Value of resource in relation to its cost
- Physical space required for shelving and display
- Local significance or interest
- Locally produced or created content

Scope of Collection

- While supporting MCL's mission, values, and strategic roadmap, the most powerful influences on the library's collection are widespread interest and current usage
- MCL collects materials in a variety of popular formats, including physical and electronic formats.
- MCL's collection provides materials reflecting a variety of viewpoints, as availability allows. MCL supports free and open access to information and ideas as stated in the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View policies of the American Library Association. Per the





American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights: "Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." Selection of materials does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content, viewpoint, implications, or presentation of the materials.

- Materials for children and teenagers are intended to broaden their vision, support recreational reading, encourage and facilitate reading skills, supplement their educational needs, stimulate and widen their interests, lead to recognition and appreciation of literature and reflect the diversity of the community and our world. It is the parent(s), and only the parent(s), responsibility to guide their children, and only their own children, in using and accessing library materials.
- MCL actively seeks to serve and reflect Mesa County's 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.
- The collection is not archival, with the exception of materials in the Rashleigh Regional History Room, and is reviewed regularly.

Purchase Suggestions

We encourage Mesa County residents to participate in building a collection that accurately reflects the needs and interests of the community. Residents can suggest titles for purchase. All suggestions will be reviewed using the criteria outlined above.

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 already owned by other libraries.

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 Deselection 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
- Popularity
- Currency
- 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 on the Collection Management team.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

Mesa County Libraries fully supports and believes in the freedom of information for all and therefore does not practice censorship. Notwithstanding, community members have the right to challenge MCL to reconsider library materials.

All requests to reconsider materials must be made in writing using MCL’s Request for Reconsideration form, which is available at any Mesa County Libraries location and online. Completed forms go to designated staff who review the request in relation to the Library’s written policies. Individuals may submit up to five Requests for Reconsideration forms per month. Only forms filled out in full by Mesa County residents will be given full consideration and review. The Library Director then reviews the request and replies in writing within thirty days of receipt of the request. The Library Board of Trustees will be notified of all Requests for Reconsideration received. The item in question will not be removed from the shelf during the reconsideration process.

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED ON MARCH 30, 2023

Alice Dow – MCPLD Board President

Mary Watson – MCPLD Board Secretary

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04/07/2023

