



Oakridge Public Library

Collection Development Policy

Oakridge Public Library (OPL) serves all who live in Oakridge and its surrounding areas. As a public library, OPL provides the community with carefully selected books and other materials to aid our patrons with the pursuit of education, information, research, pleasure, and the creative use of leisure time.

Because of the volume of publishing, as well as the limitations of budget and space, the library must have a selection policy with which to meet community interests and needs.

The library director is ultimately responsible for the selection of materials. All staff members and the general public are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration as well.

The main points considered in the selection of materials are: 1) literary or artistic merit, 2) accuracy, 3) utility, 4) entertainment value, and 5) current or historical interest.

Generally, items are selected based on favorable reviews, inclusion in special lists, popularity or media coverage.

Because of limited budget and space, the library emphasizes quality rather than quantity. The library cannot provide all materials that are requested. Therefore, inter-library loan is used to obtain from other libraries those items that are beyond the scope of OPL collection.

Some other selecting guidelines: 1) ensure a robust, up-to-date collection 2) because OPL serves a wide range of ages, reading skills and educational backgrounds, we will select materials of varying complexity, 4) OPL does not acquire textbooks or other

curriculum-related materials unless such materials also serve the general public, 5)
Suggestions from the public are considered according to the general selection policies.

Items are placed in the collection according to common library standards, age of user, alphabetical, and Dewey classification.

Children are not limited to the juvenile collection. Juvenile collections are kept together for ease of use. Responsibility for a child's selection rests with the parent/guardian.

OPL gratefully accepts gifts of materials with the understanding that they will be added to the collection only if appropriate and needed. If they are not needed due to duplication, condition or dated information the library will put them in our annual book sale. Or, they will be returned to the donor if requested.

OPL recognizes that some materials are controversial and may offend some patrons. Selection of materials will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval but solely on the basis of the principles stated in this policy. All materials selected under this policy are constitutionally protected under the First Amendment.

Weeding (or deselection) of materials in the collection serves to maintain an up-to-date and useful collection. Weeding the collection provides space for new materials and increases the value of the collection by removing outdated/unwanted material or items in poor condition. Replacement of worn items is dependent on current demand, usefulness, more recent acquisitions, and availability of newer editions. Other weeding guidelines include: currency i.e. up to date, low or no usage, and duplicate copies.