



Weston Public Library Collection Development Policy

Introduction

This policy guides the development of the collection to reflect the Weston Public Library's Mission Statement. The Weston Public Library's mission is to provide a broad range of informational, educational, and recreational resources to serve the diverse needs of the community.

The Weston Public Library is dedicated to the protection of the free expression of ideas and the private reading, listening, and viewing rights of individuals. The Weston Public Library has adopted the American Library Association's guidelines for public access to information set forth in the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View. In accordance with these documents, no material shall be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political or social view of either the author or the material.

Additionally, the Library believes reading, listening, and viewing are individual private matters. While patrons are free to select or reject materials for themselves or their children, the freedom of others to read, listen, or view will not be restricted. The Library does not stand *in loco parentis*. Parents and guardians, not the Library staff, have the responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their children.

Responsibility

The authority and responsibility for selection is vested with the Library Director and staff. The Library Director and staff use this policy and their training and expertise in selecting Library materials. Patrons and staff are encouraged to recommend titles for consideration.

General Selection Criteria

The Weston Public Library seeks to develop a collection designed to meet the unique needs of the Weston community within the constraints of budget allocations, shelf space, and staffing. Resource sharing with other libraries, as well as information in electronic formats, are valid and necessary ways of meeting patron needs. Selection of all formats offered is governed by open-mindedness and awareness of the changing needs of the community. Materials selected are not an endorsement by the Weston Public Library of either the content or viewpoint presented.

Professional reviews provide a valued source for materials selection. Book lists and bibliographies by recognized authorities in specific areas are used, as are requests from Library patrons.

Print/Media Resources

The Weston Public Library actively collects fiction and non-fiction books, large print fiction and non-fiction books, DVDs, books on CD, periodicals, and newspapers. The Library strives to balance demand for current highly requested titles and the need to maintain and develop a collection of standard works of lasting value representing a variety of viewpoints. Music CDs are mostly acquired through donations. Possible acquisitions, whether donated or purchased, are evaluated by one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Relevant to community needs and interests
- b. Attention of critics, reviewers and library users
- c. Popularity of titles and authors
- d. Reputation or significance of work by the author or artist
- e. Authority, accuracy, and timeliness
- f. Literary and artistic merit
- g. Relevance to the present collection or anticipated needs
- h. Value as permanent resource material
- i. Accessibility through collections in our cooperative databases (i.e. Bibliomation and iCONN)
- j. Suitable format for library use
- k. Local interest

Items selected must meet one or more of these criteria but not every item that meets one or more of them will be selected. The Library strongly encourages patrons to suggest items, topics or authors they would like to see included in the collection. Requests may be met through resource sharing with other libraries, electronic delivery, or other means.

The Library does not collect textbooks, academic, or technical materials unless they are considered useful to the general reader.

Electronic Resources

Electronic resources are considered an extension of the Library's in-house collection. Electronic resources are more easily and frequently updated, and have become a preferred format for answering reference inquiries and for use by remote patrons. Many such resources are provided through iCONN, a service of the Connecticut State Library. The Library also subscribes to electronic resources intended to meet the specific needs of the Weston community. In addition to providing access to resources not available in physical format in the Library due to financial or space constraints, the electronic resources are intended to serve the Town's commuting and traveling population.

Library staff research and evaluate electronic resources according to the same criteria detailed above for print and media resources.

Challenges to Materials

The Library recognizes the right of individuals or groups to question materials in the collection. Such concerns may be stated in writing on the “Statement of Concern” form. The form may be sent to the Library Director, who will refer it to the Library Board for review. Material under consideration will remain available to patrons until a decision is made. The Library Director will notify the concerned individual or group in writing as soon as practical.

This collection development policy will be evaluated periodically and revised as time and circumstances require.

Adopted April 2, 2002; Revised May 14, 2013