Selection Policy

The Musser Public Library develops and maintains a collection that reflects the changing needs and interests of our community. The purpose of this policy is to guide selection practices and to ensure that a wide variety of materials is available in our libraries in formats and quantities that meet the needs of our residents and patrons.

The Board of Trustees entrusts the selection, curation, and evaluation of materials in its collection to the library director who designates the work to the professional staff.

Selection criteria should take into account the following:

- A variety of formats for the residents of Muscatine to assist them as they pursue their informational, intellectual, cultural, educational, and recreational needs
- Service to the entire community, present, and future, with consideration of the diverse groups of patrons, from infants to seniors
- Continuous and periodic examination of the community and its changing interests and needs to give vitality and relevance to the selection of materials
- Guidance by the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement, the Freedom to View Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and the Free Access to Libraries for Minors statement
- A systematic review of the collection to maintain its vitality, usability, and purpose

Materials are evaluated according to one or more of the following standards:

- Current importance or permanent value
- Authority and competence of author and publisher
- Space
- Relevance to existing collection
- Availability through RiverShare or ILL
- Popularity and user demand
- Patron request whenever it is reasonable and financially possible
- Presentation of all views of controversial issues
- High standard of quality in format, content, binding, and ease of use
- Cost of an individual title in relation to the overall collection

Special Considerations for electronic materials:

- Ease of use of the product
- Available for remote access
- Ability to allow multiple simultaneous users
- Available in full text
- Technical support and training

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