

GENERAL SELECTION GUIDELINES

Requests and suggestions from the public are welcome and are given serious consideration.

The Library attempts to maintain a balanced and varied collection, covering a variety of local interests, tastes, purposes, and reading levels to fill the informational, recreational, and educational needs of the community.

The Library does not attempt to furnish textbooks or workbooks required for classroom use.

Among the criteria used in selection are:

- Accuracy, quality and appropriateness of materials
- Reputation and authority of the writer, editor and publisher
- Potential user demand and need
- Literary and artistic merit
- Favorable reviews from reliable sources
- Need to enrich the area of information
- Contribution to responsible viewpoints on controversial issues and subjects

Objections to library materials must be submitted in writing, giving detailed reasons and signed. Written objections will be considered by the Library Board.

Parents or guardians are responsible for determining the suitability of materials used by their minor children.

Large print books, audiobooks, eBooks are purchased largely on availability through the Library's vendors, popularity of the authors and continuing series in this service area, and reviews of the titles when originally published. Because these formats are more expensive than "regular" books, the cost and size of materials budget must be considered.

Mass market paperbacks are not usually purchased. Donations are not cataloged, but are available for checkout if in good condition. Romances, westerns, mysteries, historical novels, etc. are among the popular paperback genres.

Trade paperbacks are occasionally purchased when the hard-bound copy of a needed title is not available.

Books obviously written for sensational or pornographic purposes will not be purchased, but the Library does not exclude books only because of vulgar language, sex, or violence.

The Library tries to maintain a collection that is physically clean and attractive. Worn or damaged copies are replaced when possible, if customer demand warrants.

Lease Books are usually high-demand, best-selling fiction titles, and are temporary additions to the collection. They are generally selected solely on popularity and patron demand. Multiple copies may be leased until requests are filled.

NOTES ON BOOK SELECTION

- 1) ACCURACY --- Current information? History? Footnotes, index and bibliography?
Reviewed in standard publications?
- 2) NEED --- Does the Library's collection need this information? Is it already available elsewhere and easily? Are there already enough copies in the collection? Can we use another copy as a replacement for a worn-out one?
- 3) DEMAND --- On the best seller list? How many patrons have requested? Is it available through interlibrary loan for just one reader? Is it of lasting value or a passing fad?
- 4) FORMAT --- Is the binding suitable for circulation (loose-leaf, spiral-bound, metal covers, pop-up pages, materials in envelopes or folders will not hold up for circulation)? Is it new and well-bound, or old and crumbly? What is the quality of the paper? Size of print?
- 5) COST --- Does it fit into this year's materials budget? Will someone donate it? Can we put it on a wish list for a memorial?
- 6) AUTHOR --- Is this a serious, authoritative writer? Ghost-written? A first novel by an unknown writer? A book based on the private life, diary, travels, genealogy, etc. of an individual who is not a professional writer? In desperate need of a good editor?
- 7) PUBLISHER --- A reputable publisher? Self-published or from a vanity press? Are there misprints, misspellings, pages missing? Has a proof reader gone over it?
- 8) LOCAL INTEREST --- Is the book by a North Carolina author, about an event in NC or NC setting? Does the information meet a local need (beach erosion, fishing, water conservation)?
- 9) AVAILABILITY --- Already collected and easily available at another library (government documents at UNCW)?
- 10) SPACE --- Is there shelf space for the materials? (We don't have room for the whole US Code, even if it is free).

GUIDELINES FOR PURCHASING MATERIALS

The Library purchases books and A-V materials from standard library vendors and book stores. The Library does not have access to cash, check or credit card, and so buys from companies that will accept a purchase order or will bill the Library.

The Library cannot usually purchase items from individuals, authors, or small publishing houses.

Unsolicited materials are not necessarily cataloged and are treated as donations. Under special circumstances, the Library may acquire self-published titles for the collection:

- Brunswick County history or current events

- Community interest and demand

- Positive reviews

- Appropriate binding/format for collection

- Availability through Library purchasing procedures

GUIDELINES FOR DONATIONS

The Library welcomes unrestricted donations of new and used books, audio and video materials, and magazines. The Library cannot accept any item that is not an outright gift. Once donated, the items become the property of the Library. Items are donated with the understanding that they will be used at the discretion of the Library Director and Staff, according to library standards and needs. Items may be used at any of the branches, cataloged or not; given to other agencies; or sold by the Friends of the Library to benefit library activities.

Old encyclopedias, text books, and condensed books are not accepted.

The Library does not collect "rare" books.

Books given in honor or in memory of a person should be new titles.

The Library cannot provide space for shelving or storing donated private collections.

GUIDELINES FOR A-V MATERIALS

Patron demand; local significance and interest

Appropriateness for collection/community

Availability of items

Cost/Budget

Quality of production

Reader of audio books

Packaging

Reviews