



MATERIAL SELECTION

PURPOSE OF THE COLLECTION

The purpose of Wadsworth Library is to support all community members in their enjoyment of reading and pursuit of lifelong learning. The Library acquires and encourages the use of materials in various formats for the enlightenment, cultural development, and enjoyment of members of its community. The library welcomes people of all ages and levels of ability or interest. Wadsworth Library affirms the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations as adopted by the American Library Association. The addition of material to the Library does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of its content, but assures that a variety of differing points of view are represented. The Library furnishes materials for loan, provides resources for research in the library building, and provides access to worldwide databases through the Internet.

COLLECTION DEFINED

The Wadsworth Library collection includes materials in print, audiovisual, and electronic formats. In addition, the library offers access to the Internet, which is governed by the Library's Acceptable Use of Computers Policy.

LEVEL OF MATERIALS SELECTION

Wadsworth Library recognizes the variety and wealth of resources available through the Milne Library (SUNY Geneseo) and the OWWL Library System (OWWL) and strives to avoid unnecessary and costly duplication of library items that are easily obtainable. The Library belongs to OWWL Access, an online integrated system supported by OWWL and offered to Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston County libraries. The Library's staff is trained to offer suggestions for further research possibilities or to request materials from other libraries for the patron. If a patron requests an item within the scope of the Library's collection, every attempt will be made to provide access to or to purchase that item.

A "complete" collection of library materials should not be the goal, but the best and most useful materials should be selected. The Library has limited financial resources and has a responsibility to use its public funds to serve the entire community.

AUTHORITY & RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATERIALS SELECTION

Ultimate responsibility for materials selection rests with the Director who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Wadsworth Library Board of Trustees. The Director delegates the authority and responsibility for materials selection and management of the children's collection to the Children's Librarian. In turn the Director and Children's Librarian may consult with other staff or library users who have a variety of expertise in their respective fields.



CRITERIA FOR MATERIALS SELECTION

1. Whenever possible, the Library will provide materials to anticipate the needs and interests of potential users.
2. The collection should include objects of permanent value, current topics & titles, basic literacy, lifelong learning, and general information.
3. Some materials may be acquired primarily on the basis of their artistic merit, scholarship or value to humanity, while others are selected to satisfy the informational, recreational, or educational interests of the community.
4. Materials for individuals of varying ages, educational levels, and interest should be acquired.
5. No library materials shall be excluded based on expressions of race, religion, nationality, political or social views.
6. The library acquires a wide range of materials in a variety of formats according to their suitability for public library use and their cost effectiveness. Each type of material is considered in terms of its own merit and intended audience.
7. The selection of library material should be based on a comprehensive knowledge of the nature and special characteristics of Livingston County.

DONATIONS

Gift materials will be judged by the same standards that apply to purchased materials. (See Gift and Donations Policy)

WITHDRAWAL OF RESOURCES

The collection is maintained by retaining or replacing essential materials and removing on a systematic and continuous basis, those works that are worn, outdated, or no longer in demand.

RECONSIDERATION OF RESOURCES

The Board defends the principles of the freedom to read, view, or hear. No material shall be removed from the collection except under the procedures for the Reconsideration of Library Materials adopted by this Board of Trustees. Forms are available at the Circulation Desk.

Whenever a patron objects to the presence or absence of library materials, they will be asked to put their request in writing by completing and signing the form entitled "Request for Reconsideration of Library Material." The Library Director in consultation with the Board of Trustees will review the request in light of the criteria delineated in this policy. A letter will be sent to the person or organization making the request at the earliest possible date. The Director will inform the Board of all requests for reconsideration of library materials and their disposition.



INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

An individual is free to reject library materials of which they do not approve. However, one cannot restrict the intellectual freedom of others.

Responsibility for the reading, viewing, or listening material of children and adolescents rests with their parent or legal guardian, not the Library, its staff or its board.

The Wadsworth Library Board of Trustees has adopted and declared that it will adhere to and support:

The Library Bill of Rights

The Freedom to Read Statement adopted by the American Library Association

The Freedom to View Statement adopted by American Library Association.

Responsibility for Upholding
DIRECTOR

Adopted May 20, 2004 by Board of Trustees
Reviewed by Board of Trustees on May 10, 2018
Revised and Approved February 14, 2019 by Board of Trustees