



Winnipeg Public Library Materials Selection Statement

April 2023

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Winnipeg Public Library Materials Selection Statement

Statement of Purpose

Winnipeg Public Library strives to provide access to a collection that meets the diverse information and recreational needs of the citizens of Winnipeg. Winnipeg Public Library encourages our community's active participation in the Library which enhances the overall collection.

This Materials Selection Statement:

- describes the principles that animate the selection of materials
- defines the scope of the Library's existing collections
- outlines the practices and policies that maintain collections
- outlines how material is selected for the Library
- provides guidance to staff involved in the materials selection process.

One System, One Collection

Collections at Winnipeg Public Library branches are accessible to all Winnipeggers wherever they reside in the city. DAISY and Talking Book collections are made available for the exclusive use of persons with print disabilities.

Access to materials and information beyond the immediate resources of an individual branch is available by means of requests placed through the online catalogue and delivered to a Library branch of choice.

Access to the Library's digital collections is available to anyone with a valid Winnipeg Public Library membership card through the Library's website, expanding the range of materials and providing 24-hour access to a variety of information and services.

Interlibrary Loan

Books, magazine articles or microfilm reels that are not held at Winnipeg Public Library may be requested from other library systems or information agencies by using our [Interlibrary Loan Services](#).

Philosophy of Selection

The main goal of materials selection is to choose, organize and ensure equitable access to a collection of materials that meets the diverse needs of public library users in Winnipeg.

Our Goals:

- To continually assess and evaluate the relevance and content of our collections based on professional judgment, performance measures and public input.
- To encourage and act on suggestions from our community.
- To explore, evaluate and introduce new ways of providing access to collections and related services including electronic resources and emerging technologies and formats.
- To cooperate with other institutions and agencies in resource sharing within Manitoba and Canada

Responsibility for Selection

The responsibility for materials selection rests with the Manager of the Library Services, a Division of the Community Services Department, who operates under the authority of the City of Winnipeg.

Ongoing selection and maintenance of library collections is delegated to professional librarians and qualified staff. Our staff and members of our community are welcome to suggest items for consideration.

Selection Criteria

Collections Librarians consider the following general criteria in choosing materials:

- present and potential relevance to community interests and needs
- current or historical significance of the author or subject
- positive evaluations in review media
- level of current and anticipated demand
- suitability of subject and style for intended audience level
- accuracy, relevance and currency of content
- Canadian and/or local emphasis
- award winning material
- insight into human and social conditions
- diversity of perspectives
- availability and suitability for library use
- affordability
- relationship to the library's existing collection and to other local resources

The Library will not add material that promotes discrimination, harassment, hatred, or violence against a group or individual, or that impedes a person's right to live with dignity and respect.

Scope of the Collection

Winnipeg Public Library collects material that fulfills the recreational, educational and information needs of the citizens of Winnipeg. Material is collected in a wide variety of formats to meet the diverse needs of Winnipeggers of all ages.

Materials selected also support the development of literacy skills, encourage and strengthen acquired reading skills, for Winnipeggers of all ages.

Intellectual Freedom

Winnipeg Public Library supports each individual's right of access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity.

Accordingly, the Library has a responsibility to acquire and provide access to materials that represent a wide diversity of subjects and perspectives, including those which may express controversial or unpopular ideas.

Not all materials selected, therefore, will be suitable for every individual or group.

The presence of an item in our collection does not indicate an endorsement of its content by the Library.

Winnipeg Public Library supports the [Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#).

Parental Responsibility

While everyone is free to select or reject materials for themselves or their own children, the freedom of others to read, listen, view or inquire will not be restricted.

Parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening and viewing choices exclusively of their own children.

The Library's selection, classification and display of materials will not eliminate the possibility that children may read, listen to, view or borrow items that their parents or legal guardians may consider inappropriate.

No item will be excluded from the library collection on the basis of its potential availability to children.

Public Input

Winnipeg Public Library encourages our community's active participation in the Library and welcomes suggestions for the purchase of items that enhance the overall collection. The Library will evaluate all suggestions using the same criteria that guide our selection of materials.

Suggestion for Purchase forms can be accessed on the Library's [website](#).

Winnipeg Public Library does not accept donations of books, movies, magazines, or other media. The sorting, storing, and disposing of donated materials is not cost-effective.

Please contact the [Friends of the Library](#) to donate physical materials for their book sales. Proceeds support Winnipeg Public Library projects.

Materials Reconsideration

Winnipeg Public Library also recognizes the right of any individual or group to question the inclusion of specific materials in the collection.

Requests to review an item may be made on the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material form available at all branches. All requests will be reviewed in relation to the selection criteria outlined in the Materials Selection Statement. A written response will be provided within 30 days.

Collection Management

Winnipeg Public Library carries out an ongoing program of collection evaluation and maintenance. For more information see [Winnipeg Public Library's Weeding Statement](#).

Revision of the Materials Selection Statement

This Materials Selection Statement will be regularly reviewed.

Revised: April 2023