



Collection Development Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Big Bend Village Library has adopted the following collection development policy to guide librarians and to inform the public of the principles upon which collection development and management decisions are based. Collection development is the ongoing process of assessing the materials available for purchase or licensing and making decisions on their inclusion and retention.

The Vision and Mission Statements of the Big Bend Village Library guide the selection of materials as it does the development of services and the allocation of resources.

Vision: The Big Bend Village Library serves the community in a friendly environment where users can find information, share knowledge, and connect with each other through our various programs and recreational outlets.

Mission:

- Quality Service
- Intellectual Freedom
- Supporting a lifelong enjoyment of reading and learning for all ages.

The following statements and policies have been adopted by the Library and are used as guidelines for the development of the Library collections. The Library endorses the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights," (see attached document).

Objectives

The objectives of the Library are to collect, organize, and make easily available the materials housed within the Library. The library staff is guided by a sense of responsibility to the community to meet the above stated goals. Library staff members selecting library materials and resources are expected to keep the overall objectives in mind when applying their professional knowledge and experience in making selection decisions.

Responsibility for selection

The Director of the Big Bend Village Library, who operates within the framework of this policy as approved by the Library Board of Trustees, is responsible for the selection of library materials and resources chosen to fulfill the above objectives. Other staff members and the public may recommend materials for consideration. Final responsibility rests with the Director who may delegate to professional staff members the authority to interpret the policy in day-to-day decisions regarding the development of the collection and the subsequent selection of library materials and resources.

The exceptions are digital materials which are provided through a state or system wide buying pool to which the Big Bend Village Library contributes funds. These materials include audio, video, and electronic books and are selected through the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium or the system's appropriate committee. The Big Bend Village Library has no direct control over this selection, other than to recommend titles. Relevant selection committee and collection development policies are set through the appropriate organizations.



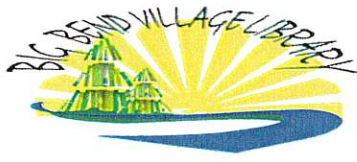
Guidelines for selection

The selection of any material or resource does not constitute an endorsement.

- Selection decisions are guided by the merits of the work, collection needs and interests of a diverse community.
- Selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that material may be accessible to children. The Library does not restrict access to any material by age and leaves the responsibility for children's use of its materials to each child's parent or legal guardian.
- The Library acknowledges a particular interest in local, county, and state history and government. The Library will add to its collection works produced by authors, printers, or publishers with local connections that meet the purpose and objectives of this policy.
- The Library selects materials of varying complexity and format because it serves a public embracing a wide range of ages, educational backgrounds, interests, sensory preferences, and reading skills. When staff review and select materials for purchase, they consider the special needs of the community.

Criteria for selection

- The selectors must consider each type of material in terms of its own merits and the audience for whom it is intended. No single standard can apply to all acquisition decisions. Some material may be selected primarily for artistic merit, scholarship, or value to humanity, while others may be chosen to satisfy the recreational and entertainment needs for the community.
- Some library materials are subject to widespread and/or heavy local demand. These high-demand items may or may not meet the general and specific criteria contained in this policy. Selectors give serious consideration to the volume and nature of requests by members of the public. In addition, as the social and intellectual climate of the community changes, materials not originally recommended for purchase may become of interest. Such materials will be reevaluated as the need arises.
- To build a collection of merit and significance, selectors acquire materials according to objective guidelines. They evaluate acquisitions, whether purchased or donated to the library, primarily by examining reviews in one or more of the professional library review media and checking against the criteria listed below.
- The Library uses a website and social media to meet the information needs of patrons.
- Professional librarians use the general criteria outlined in this policy when linking to external content.
- The Library is a member of the Bridges Library System and, as such, provides access to materials from other libraries to our patrons.



General criteria

- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Suitability of subject and style for the intended audience
- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- Appropriateness and effectiveness of the medium to the content
- Importance as a document of the times
- Relation to the existing collection and to other material on the subject
- Reputation and or significance of the author or illustrator
- Attention of critics, reviewers and the public
- Cost

Content criteria

- Authority
- Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
- Objectivity
- Consideration of the work as a whole
- Clarity, accuracy, and logic of presentation
- Representation of diverse points of view
- Representation of important movements, genres, or trends
- Of lasting value

Donations and Gifts

Donations of materials are gratefully accepted with the understanding that the Library may add them to the collection if they meet established standards for purchased materials, with emphasis on currency, physical condition, and need. All gifts added to the collection must be available for public use. Materials donated to the Library, whether added to the collection or not, become the property of the Library, and will not be returned to the donor. There is no obligation for the Library to retain ownership of the item.

Materials not added to the collection will be put out for sale or disposed of by other means. The Library cannot place a monetary value on gifts for tax purposes, but receipts are provided upon request.

Monetary gifts are always welcome and may be designated as memorials. When monetary gifts are intended for the purchase of materials, library staff will make the determination of what titles to buy, using the same criteria as for all other purchases.

Gifts of non-library items (such as paintings, portraits or art objects) become the property of the Library and will not be returned to the donor. There is no obligation for the Library to retain ownership of the item.



Evaluation and Withdrawal of Materials

An attractive, up-to-date, currently useful collection is maintained through a continual discarding and replacing process. Materials may be withdrawn from the library collection after careful consideration of these factors:

- physical condition
- currency of information
- lack of use
- superseded by a new edition or better work on the same subject
- space needs

Although every effort will be made to replace needed materials which are withdrawn, the Library takes the position that it is better to have no information on a subject than to have materials which are inaccurate or in poor physical condition.

Materials withdrawn from the collection may be given for a Library Book Sale or disposed of by other means. Individual items that are being withdrawn will not be saved for specific individuals.

Request for Reconsideration

The Library will reconsider any material in its collection upon written request of a patron registered at the Big Bend Village Library who fulfills the following steps:

The patron will be given a copy of the Big Bend Village Library Collection Development Policy, which includes the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material form. This is available at the library.

If the patron wants to pursue the reconsideration, the completed reconsideration form must be submitted to the Library Director. The Library Director will notify the patron in writing within 1 week, confirming that their request has been received. The Library Director will refer the request to the Library Board to review the item being questioned within 4 weeks of receiving the initial request. The Library Board will decide whether the item should be retained, and the patron will be informed of the decision in writing.

The patron may appeal the Library Board's decision by submitting a written request to the Library Director for a hearing before the Library Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. This request must be submitted within two months of receipt of the Library Board's decision.

Adopted on April 20, 2021 by the Big Bend Village Library Board
Updated on December 20, 2022 by the Big Bend Village Library Board

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally-identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939 by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.