

Wendell Free Library Collection Development Policy

The primary responsibility of the Wendell Free Library is to serve the people of Wendell by providing a broad choice of materials to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs. The Library maintains print and non-print collections for adults, young adults and children. It intends to develop a local history collection with an emphasis on Wendell.

Responsibility for Collection Development

The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing the collection development policy. The Library Director is responsible for the allocation of the materials budget, the selection of materials and the ongoing maintenance of the collection.

Selection Process

Collection development decisions are made using staff judgment and expertise, evaluating reviews in professional journals and other selection tools. Factors used in making decisions include, but are not limited to:

- Popular demand
- Community needs and interests as determined by library use
- Current interest and usefulness
- Cost
- Quality of the item and its appropriateness for intended user
- Budget and space considerations
- Availability of the materials through lending library programs

Maintaining the Collection

In order to maintain a collection that is current, reliable, in good condition, well used, and which relates to the needs and interests of the community, materials will be withdrawn on a systematic and continuing basis. Materials are withdrawn when they are judged to be:

- Dated
- Inaccurate
- Seldom used
- In poor condition
- Otherwise no longer appropriate

Withdrawn items are given to the Friends of the Wendell Free Library except in certain circumstances when the discarded materials can be used by another library, educational institution or non-profit institution.

Donated Items

Gifts and donations of materials accepted by the Wendell Free Library are subject to the same process as purchased materials. They are considered with the explicit understanding that such factors as duplication, merit, lack of community interest, processing costs, physical condition, or inadequate shelf space may prevent their addition to the collection or permanent retention on the shelves. Gifts and donations are accepted with the understanding that the Library may, at any time, discard them or offer them for sale through the Friends of the Library Book Sale Program.

Controversial Materials and Intellectual Freedom

The Library recognizes its obligation to provide as wide a spectrum of lending materials as possible. Selection of materials is not restricted by the possibility that certain materials might be considered objectionable by some users on moral, religious, political or other grounds. The Library endorses the principles of the Freedom to Read Statement and the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.

The Library believes it is essential in a free society to provide access to all library materials. No restrictions are placed on what anyone may read or view. Individuals or groups may occasionally question the inclusion of an item in the collection because of fear or doubt about the effects of the material on an impressionable person. Although the Library understands this concern, it is the Library's position that the risk to society is far greater if public access to ideas and information is restricted. Neither an individual, nor group, not even the Library itself has the right to decide what others may or may not read. The Library is opposed to removing from its shelves, at the request of any individual or group, materials that have been chosen according to the collection development policy. In addition, the library will oppose coercion on the part of an individual or group seeking to have material added to the collection that is contrary to the criteria selection stated above.

Request for Reconsideration

Any person in the community who finds any Library materials objectionable is entitled to complete a Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form and submit it to the Library Director who will present the issue to the Board of Trustees.