

East Longmeadow Public Library

Collection Development Policy

Library Mission Statement

The mission of the East Longmeadow Public Library is to provide free and equal access to information, resources, and technology. Its purpose is to help educate and enrich our community in response to the intellectual, educational, and cultural needs and input of its patrons. The library offers an extensive variety of materials for the purpose of study or enjoyment and supports literacy and life-long learning for its town residents.

Purpose

The Collection Development Policy is intended to provide guidance, within budgetary and space limitations, for the selection and evaluation of materials which anticipate and meet the needs of our patrons. It also serves to acquaint the general public with the principles of selection. The American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#) and the [Freedom to Read Statement](#) have been endorsed by the East Longmeadow Public Library Board of Trustees and are integral parts of this policy.

Responsibility for Selection

The ultimate responsibility for selection of materials, as with all library activities, rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the East Longmeadow Public Library Board of Library Trustees. The initial responsibility of selection may be shared by other members of the professional staff within the areas of service to children, adolescents, as well as reference materials for adults.

Materials Selection Process

A variety of tools are used to aid in the awareness and selection of materials, including such sources as professional review journals, publishers' catalogs, purchase plan alerts, and patron and staff recommendations.

Involved in the process of collection development are the experience and knowledge of those staff members so designated by the Library Director making selection decisions, their familiarity with the community, other library resources, the existing collection and the library's materials' budget. Care is made to make acquisition decisions as objectively as possible.

Evaluation of a work includes the entire work, not just individual parts. A work's overall contribution to the collection is a critical determinant for acceptance or rejection. No single criterion can be applied to all materials, and various criteria carry different weights in different circumstances.

Materials Selection Criteria

To build a collection of merit, materials are evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria. An item need not meet all of these criteria, however, in order to be acceptable.

- Popular interest
- Contemporary significance or permanent value
- Currency of information
- Scope and accuracy of subject matter
- Scarcity of information in subject area
- Creative, literary or technical quality
- Format and ease of use
- Author's significance or reputation
- Evaluations in professionally recognized critical review sources
- Relevance to the existing collection
- Special local interest or community relevance
- Availability of similar materials in other area libraries
- Cost

Electronic Materials/Website

The Library has an established presence on the World Wide Web located at www.eastlongmeadowlibrary.org. This website serves as a gateway to the Library's online presence which includes a growing number of services including, but not limited to, online databases and digital books. The online collection is selected based on the same principles set forth elsewhere in this policy.

Interlibrary Loan

The East Longmeadow Public Library is a member of the CW/MARS library consortium. Due to limited budget and space, it is not possible to provide all materials that are requested. Therefore, interlibrary loan is used to obtain from other member libraries those materials that are not a part of our collection. In return for utilizing interlibrary loan to satisfy the needs of our

patrons, the Library agrees to lend its materials to the other member libraries through the same interlibrary loan network.

Collection Maintenance

Library collections, not being static, require an active review process. An ongoing re-evaluation of materials is necessary in order to maintain a current, accurate and inviting collection.

Candidates for withdrawal include, but are not limited to: outdated materials; items no longer of interest or in demand; duplicate copies, and worn or damaged items.

Some materials may be replaced by an alternative format as technology advances and demand warrants. Examples of this include VHS tapes to DVD/Blu Ray discs and audio books on cassette to those on CD.

Worn or damaged items that are still in demand may be either mended or replaced depending on the degree of wear or damage.

Withdrawn items will either be placed in our “free” bins in the library’s vestibule for patrons to take as they wish or be donated to the Friends of the Library for sale.

Access to Collection Materials

All library materials are available for use by all patrons. Materials will be freely and easily accessible to the public. Access to materials is ensured by the way materials are cataloged, organized, managed, and displayed as well as through staff interaction. Children are not limited to materials in the children’s area; although these materials are kept together in order to facilitate use. Responsibility for a child’s reading, listening or viewing material rests solely with their parent or guardian.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

The Library subscribes to the principles of intellectual freedom, which allows for every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. The Library also subscribes to the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights. Included in this statement is the commitment to honor the rights of an individual to use the Library regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, social or political views. Accordingly, the library staff provides equal service to all library users. If an individual wishes to express concern about or objects to the inclusion of a particular item in the collection they may complete a “Materials Reconsideration Inquiry” form. This inquiry will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the East Longmeadow Public Library Board of Library Trustees. The request will be given careful consideration and a final decision will be made by the Board in a timely manner.

The Collection Development Policy is subject to review and amendment by the Board of Library Trustees.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees, June 1992.

Amended by the Board of Library Trustees, November 2014.

Amended by the Board of Library Trustees, January 2019.

Materials Reconsideration Inquiry

Request initiated by (Name) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip
Code _____

Represents: Self _____ Organization _____. If individual represents an organization:

Name of Organization: _____

Address of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Type of material (book, periodical, music CD, DVD, etc.) _____

Author/Artist/Editor _____

Title _____

Item found in which collection? Adult _____ Young Adult _____ Children's _____

What is your objection to this work? Please be specific; cite pages, sections, etc.

What do you think might be the effect of reading/seeing/listening to this work?

For what age group would you recommend this work?

Do you believe that there is anything worthwhile about this material? If yes, please comment:

Have you read/seen/listened to the entire item?

Have you read professional reviews of the work? If yes, please list the names of the critics and source of the reviews.

What do you believe are the main ideas of the work?

What would you like the library to do about this work?

Other comments:

Signature:

Date:

Print Name Above: