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CHAPTER 13: Collection
Development
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Collection Development Policy

The Marathon County Public Library uses a patron-driven collection development model based on a shared collection and centralized selection. Primary authority for selection rests in the hands of the Library Director, who shall establish Collection Development Procedure according to the guidelines set forth in this policy.

Primary Collection Goals:

- *Materials for Lifelong Learning and Life Skills* – We envision a world in which everyone can read, write, evaluate information, and effectively apply technology to lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.
- *Materials that Incorporate Emerging Technologies* – We empower the people of Marathon County with the technology resources to connect to the world and the future.
- *High Interest Materials for All Ages* – We provide current high-interest materials in a variety of formats.

Selection Principles:

The Library recognizes and celebrates that it serves all members of the Marathon County community, regardless of age, political or social views, gender (including gender expression), sexuality, race, ethnicity, or country of origin. As such, the Library further recognizes that its patrons have diverse backgrounds, cultural heritages, interests, political views, and social values. The Library seeks to build a collection to meet the needs of the members of this diverse community, and to that end will routinely gather statistics and community input to determine the characteristics, expectations, and needs of these users. The Library will apply the latest tools and innovations to its collection development practices.

All patrons are free to request materials from the Library, and all patron requests will be evaluated according to the goals, principles, and standards contained in this policy, as well as any procedure for collection development laid out by the Library Director.

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The Library will give highest priority to those materials most needed by our patrons, focusing on circulating materials for our diverse community in a variety of formats. Selectors will emphasize a balance of materials in the shared collection; individual branch collections may vary with local demand. Print reference collections will be reduced in favor of circulating and online resources. New formats of materials will be integrated into the collection as the patron demand increases.

The Library has adopted the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read Statement, as well as the Freedom to View Statement endorsed by the American Library Association. These documents can be found in Chapter 4 of the Marathon County Public Library Operations Manual & Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual and are both adhered to and supported by the Marathon County Public Library. The content of these documents is to be understood as part of this and all other related policies and procedures.

Selection Standards:

- Artistic or scholarly merit of material
- Popular demand for or interest in subject
- Requests for particular materials
- Timeliness of content
- Appropriateness and relevancy of material to the library's users
- Favorable reviews in standard library reviewing sources
- Reputation, authority, or qualifications of author, artist, producer, editor, or publisher
- Importance of material in relation to existing collection in terms of balance or completeness (including in terms of existing series')
- Accessibility of material by library users (including reading level, ease of use of electronic uses)
- Historical value of material
- Technical quality of A/V materials
- Physical quality of material (packaging, binding, etc.)
- Availability of material through vendors
- Cost of material in relation to the quality and significance of above factors

Collection Maintenance:

The collection is reviewed and revised on an on-going basis to meet contemporary needs. The level of use of an item in the present will take priority over the possibility that someone may use it someday. Materials containing outdated or superseded information will be removed from the collection. Current relevance and demand will be the

determining factor in how long materials are kept. The collection is neither archival nor research oriented; the Library supplements the collection by borrowing from other libraries as necessary to meet patron demands.

The Way We Do Business:

- We act as good stewards of the public's tax dollars.
- We provide equitable access to a broad array of content, as well as training and assistance to help people successfully navigate and use information.
- We operate as one system; unity provides value. The centralized approach to a shared collection allows staff to concentrate on collections that are maximized around the needs of patrons.
- We routinely gather statistics and community input to determine user characteristics, expectations and needs and will apply the latest tools and innovations to our collection development practices.
- We supplement our collections with additional materials by borrowing through cooperative agreements with other libraries.
- Parents and/or guardians of children under the age of 18 have primary responsibility over determining the appropriateness of any given material. Not all materials within the Library can be considered age-appropriate for all users. The Library will not be responsible for determining the appropriateness of any material a child with their own library card chooses to view or check out, and does not adapt selection based on potential access to all materials.