



Greenwich Library Policy
Collection Development and Maintenance
Approved October 14, 2025

For definitions and other information relevant to understanding Library Policies, please see *Introduction to Library Policies*.

Definitions.

“Collection”: A subset of Materials grouped by format or theme as described in this Policy or collectively the entirety of Library borrowing Materials.

“Material”: Any physical or electronic information source of the Library including, but not limited to, all Collections which are available to Users.

“User”: Those who use Resources and Materials provided by the Library.

“Resource”: Any bought, donated, or leased physical or electronic information source of the Library.

Introduction. This Policy is intended to help guide Library staff in its duties concerning the Collections and to inform Users of the principles on which Collection decisions are based. The Collections are developed under the guidance set out in the Library’s Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Plan Goals. The Collections are to support the Library as an important place for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and the promotion of free expression and free access to ideas by all residents. The principal limits on the ability to add to the Collections are constraints of funding, staffing, and the availability of space in the Library. The Library does not add to or delete resources from the Collections based on anticipated approval or disapproval of the contents of resources, nor does the Library endorse any resources in the Collections. Portions of the Collections are identified as Young Adult, Young Adult-Middle School, or Children’s to assist Users in identifying age-appropriate resources. However, no Collection is restricted from borrowing based on age. For further information concerning the Library’s policies toward minors, see *Policies Applicable to Minors*. Resources may be available in various formats and languages, including resources for people with disabilities. The Library is aware of and respects intellectual property rights and endeavors to adhere to relevant legislation regarding copyright use and restrictions.

Scope of the Collection. The Collections offer all Users resources in a wide variety of formats, treatments, viewpoints, and levels of difficulty. Library Materials are provided for the interest,

information, and enlightenment of all residents. Therefore, Library Materials represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints in the Collection as a whole. The Collections are reviewed and revised continuously by librarians who are professionally trained to curate and develop a Collection that provides access to the widest array of library and education Materials. Except for local history Material, the Collections are generally not archival. The Library is a part of the larger community of libraries throughout the area, state, and nation. Items not in the Collection may be borrowed from other libraries through the Library. The Library regularly withdraws resources from its Collections to maintain Collection usefulness, currency, and relevance.

Authority and Responsibility of Selecting Library Materials. Authority for the Collections rests with the Director, who operates within the framework of policies set by the Board. Librarians are responsible for the selection of Library Materials. Other Library Staff participate in collection development and management. Main Library Staff focuses on the needs of the entire community. Branch Library Staff have a local focus in their Collection work.

Procedures and Criteria. Librarians follow procedures to build and maintain a quality Collection which meets the needs of its community. These procedures follow professionally accepted standards which consider Material relevance, physical condition, availability of duplicates, availability of age appropriate or grade-level Material, and continued demand of Material.

The procedure for Library Materials review is as follows:

1. New acquisitions are evaluated by professional librarians;
2. Librarians utilize professional print and digital resources to determine acquisitions;
3. Librarians measure demand for Materials and;
4. Librarians employ Collection criteria to determine if the Material is appropriate for the Collection.

Existing Materials are evaluated on a regular basis by librarians utilizing criteria below:

Collection breadth

- Contribution to the diversity and scope of the Collection
- Value of maintaining established Collection depth
- Relation to the existing Collection and other resources on the subject

Collection quality

- Professional and industry reviews
- Reputable publishers
- Literary merit and/or public acclaim
- Receipt or nominations for awards
- Reputation and significance of author
- Accuracy and timeliness

Material Relevance

- Local significance
- Diversity of viewpoints
- Popular appeal
- Demand
- Requests by Users

Physical condition

Collection capacity

- Suitability of physical format for intended Users, available space, and shelving
- Impact on budget

Availability

- Availability of duplicates

Age appropriateness

Electronic product considerations

- Ease of use
- Availability to download, e-mail, or print desired information
- Remote access
- Technical support and training
- Availability of usage statistics
- Equipment needed to provide access
- Compliance with industry standards and specifications
- Type of ownership.

Patron Suggestions. Suggestions made by Greenwich Library card holders will be evaluated using the same selection criteria pertinent to the rest of the Collection. Items unavailable for purchase through Library vendors or that do not fit into the Library's selection criteria may be requested via interlibrary loan.

Collection Maintenance. The Library strives to provide resources that, among other criteria, are current, accurate, accessible, and in good condition. Formats are eliminated when demand has sufficiently decreased. Staff systematically inspects and considers for withdrawal items based on the following:

- Poor condition
- Dated or no longer accurate
- Superseded by a new edition or better source
- Multiple copies of once-popular Materials
- Infrequently used

Additional considerations for electronic products:

- Ease of use

- Duplication of Information
- Cost

Collection Structure.

Adult Reference Collections

- **The General Reference Collection** includes Materials such as encyclopedias, directories, dictionaries, almanacs, and atlases. At the Main Library, the reference Collection includes in-depth Materials on music, business, and health.
- **Licensed Online Databases** provide access in the Library to a variety of Materials in electronic formats as well as remote access to select resources for Greenwich Library card holders. Some contain information not included in the Library print Collections; others have information that does not exist in print format.

Adult Circulating Collections

Library staff selects resources for use at a variety of reading levels. Fiction and nonfiction resources are selected to meet Users' needs and interests.

- **The Nonfiction Collection** represents a range of subjects and a variety of points of view.
- **The Fiction Collection** consists of a representative selection of classics, bestsellers, international Materials in English translation, and titles of contemporary merit. It includes many genres, such as mystery, romance, science fiction, graphic novels, and short stories.
- **The Audio-Visual Collection** consists of video games, unabridged audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs representative of areas of cultural interest and instruction. DVDs include both foreign and domestic films, as well as experimental and progressive works.
- **Digital Collections/Databases** includes any nonphysical item either stored or transferred in a physical format. This may include databases, downloadable audiobooks, eBooks, and streaming media. Staff evaluates new electronic formats as they become available.
- **The World Languages Collections** consist of resources including titles in Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese, and Japanese.
- **Periodicals** are available on a range of topics. The latest issues do not circulate; however, many older issues are available for circulation and electronic access is available to many other titles.

Adult Special Collections

- **The Business Collection** includes resources that serve a range of User interests and assist in developing the skills and abilities needed for economic understanding and knowledge. The Collection includes traditional print Materials and online information.
- **The Music Collection** includes books, magazines, sound recordings, music scores, libretti, electronic databases, streaming audio, and visual media.

- **The Local History/Oral History Collection** incorporates reference Materials on the general theory and practice of local history and genealogy and gives special attention to Greenwich and the region. Local history includes Materials such as microfilmed and digitized newspapers, indices, local school yearbooks, government documents, state and local histories, state and local studies and surveys, directories, photographs, oral history books and transcripts, institutional histories, works of local authors, maps and atlases, and general guides to the practice of local history. Genealogy Materials include guides, online information, general indices and periodicals, and family histories.
- **The Greenwich Roundtable Digital Collection** includes white papers, written strategy abstracts, newspapers and transcripts from symposia.
- **Museum Passes** include regional educational and cultural institutions of interest to the Greenwich community.
- **The Friends of the Greenwich Library Lending Art Collection** is a circulating Collection of both original and reproduced framed prints, watercolors, lithographs, and museum posters which are selected, purchased, and maintained by the Friends.

Young Adult Collection

The Young Adult Collection is designed to serve the interests of those from age 12 through 18, with a Young Adult Middle School Collection for Users in grades 6-8. The same criteria listed for selection of adult resources apply to young adult resources. The content, style, format, and appeal to young adults are considered. The Collection includes classic and contemporary authors, popular series, manga and graphic novels, nonfiction resources, print books with pre-loaded audio devices, and test prep Materials. The Collection also supports local public and private school summer reading lists. eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, and digital comics supplement this Collection.

Children's Collection

The Children's Collection is selected with the objective of providing resources that meet the informational, recreational and cultural interests and needs of young people from infancy through age 12. Resources are selected to serve children of a variety of reading, listening, and viewing levels. It also serves parents, teachers and other adults working with and interested in children and their literature. The Collection is responsive to educational programming, providing resources which supplement curriculum and summer reading lists.

Special emphasis is given to resources that encourage a child's joy in reading and being read to; that stimulate the imagination; that develop reading skills; that enable children to learn about the world around them; and that offer a wide range of diversity of representation. The Collection aims to promote early literacy with concept picture and board books, and beginning readers. A selection of resources in languages other than English is also included. The Collection includes online literacy resources that offer additional options to support and foster reading.

Branch Collections

The Collections of the Byram Shubert and Cos Cob Branch Libraries are partially shaped by the local communities they serve. Each branch provides general coverage of subjects for all age groups and maintains current and popular Collections.

Each Branch Library maintains a core reference Collection, enhanced by system-wide licensed online databases; a current and popular adult fiction Collection; a children's Collection; a young adult Collection; and a non-English language Collection, designed to meet each Branch Library's individual needs.

Gifts and Donations.

For all gifts other than Material donations, see the *Gift Acceptance Policy*. The Library does not accept Material donations for its Collections, including books, periodicals, and self-published books. The Library reserves the right to discard any previous donations based on the Collection development policies stated above.

Intellectual Freedom, Censorship, and Privacy.

The Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the American Library Association (the "ALA") Freedom to Read Statement, Freedom to View Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and all relevant interpretations.

The standards of privacy and confidentiality endorsed by the ALA and outlined in the *Privacy & Confidentiality of Library Records Policy* are applied to the development and management of Library Collections. Access to the Internet is covered by a separate *Use of Electronic Resources Policy*.

Controversial Materials and Challenges. The Library recognizes that some Material may be considered controversial and objected to by some Users. For challenges to Library Materials and resources see the Material Review and Reconsideration Policy. In accordance with state law, the Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider Materials, displays, or programs to individual residents of the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut.

Statutory Requirements. This policy is in accordance with Connecticut Public Act No. 25-168 ("the Act") which requires that this policy provide that all library Materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 46a-64 of the general statutes.

The American Library Association Library Bill

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 that 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 that 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.

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inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996,
by the ALA Council

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