

Collection Development Policy

The Hull Public Library selects and maintains a collection that meets the needs of our community and that allows patrons to choose materials and information according to their own free choice. The collection represents diverse points of view in order to meet the literary, educational and informational needs of Hull.

General Principles

The Library upholds the principles espoused by the American Library Association's [Office of Intellectual Freedom](#), specifically the [Library Bill of Rights](#), as well as the [Freedom to Read](#) and [Freedom to View](#) Statements. Under no circumstances is any material excluded on the basis of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or political or religious views. The library will provide, whenever possible, materials that represent diverse viewpoints of controversial issues.

Access

Parents, guardians or caretakers have the primary responsibility to guide and direct the reading and viewing of their own minor children. Library staff do not stand in place of the parent (in loco parentis) in permitting or denying access to any library materials to a patron based on age.

Selection

Due to space and budget limitations, the collection is selective in scope. Material selection is delegated to library staff members with final authority for selection resting with the Library Director. The selection of materials is based on critical reviews in recognized sources.

Other factors considered are the reputation and authority of the author and the publisher, purchase price, timeliness and accuracy of the information, relationship to the existing collection, public demand, and interests and needs of the community.

Patron requests are welcomed and are evaluated according to the standards as established by this policy.

Withdrawal of Material

The Library is not a library of historical record. To ensure a vital collection of continuing value to Hull, library materials are regularly withdrawn for a variety of reasons including condition, relevance and currency.

Discarded materials are disposed of through library books sales or donated to charitable organizations when possible.

Memorials

The Library accepts memorial gifts from individuals, organizations or foundations. The donor may specify general subject areas or may leave the choice of purchase to the Library.

Commemorative bookplates are affixed to all memorial gift materials.

Gifts

Gifts accepted by the Library are evaluated on the same basis as purchased materials.

In-Print Versus Out-of-Print

To maintain the currency of the collection, selection of materials concentrates on materials that are still in print. Out-of-print dealers may be used for works that are deemed essential for the library collection.

Textbooks

The Library does not purchase books intended for use as general textbooks.

Periodicals

The Library subscribes to periodicals that meet the criteria set forth in this policy.

Audiovisual and Other Items

The Library's audiovisual collection is intended to serve the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community.

The Library's movie collection includes feature, classic, literature based, and foreign and independent films. Informational, documentary, travel and how-to productions are also selected.

Equipment, or items designated as part of the Library of Things, may be selected for circulation.

Electronic Resources

The Library's digital content collections included ebooks, emagazines and eaudiobooks, downloadable and streaming audio and video, and research databases and readers' advisory resources.

Databases and digital content are purchased from several vendors. While these materials are purchased in accordance with criteria set forth in this policy, in many cases the Library is purchasing access to a collection of pre-selected material.

Some electronic resources are selected by the Old Colony Library Network and the Massachusetts Library System and shared with member libraries.