

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- The library will collect non-fiction in all subject areas, including opposing viewpoints.
- The majority of best-selling fiction materials will be purchased during the extent of their popularity.
- The selectors will acquire only those items favorably reviewed in selection aids.
- The library will select items that reflect the needs of our community.

Rice Public Library's collections are not intended for in-depth research or scholarly work. They include basic works in major fields of knowledge and are intended to reflect the interests of their communities. Popular titles and subjects are duplicated as long as there is a demand for them.

The library purchases a wide range of fiction reflecting the diverse interests of a public that varies greatly in education, taste, and reading ability. An attempt is made to purchase books representing virtually all categories of fiction.

The library is very much aware of community or public demand and will often purchase fiction titles that are not notable for their literary quality or artistic merit but have substantial popular appeal. Popular titles are also duplicated as necessary to meet demand. Because of the abundance of available fiction titles, the library makes extensive use of book reviews.

Although accuracy of content and authority of a work's creators are important criteria in the selection of non-fiction materials, the library does not assume responsibility for inaccuracies or errors in the works included in its collections. Opinion, hypothesis, and theory are as important to the library's non-fiction collection as proven facts.

Challenged Material

The library attempts to acquire materials representing all significant points of view on current and historical questions and controversies, including legal, constitutional, political, economic, medical, ethical, religious, social, sexual, and other issues. Inclusion of material representing a particular belief, opinion, or point of view in the library's collection does not constitute endorsement by the library.

As a tax-supported institution, Rice Public Library is building a collection which includes opposing viewpoints, rather than supporting any one view

of a particular topic or issue. Some of the materials may be offensive to individuals or groups because of individual perceptions of profanity, social, economic, and political ideas, religious viewpoints, the background of the author, or the kind of information provided. The library does not approve nor endorse any particular viewpoint or belief represented in its collection. The Library's role is to provide materials which will allow individuals to freely examine issues and make their own decisions. It is the responsibility of individuals to limit their reading to books and materials which are congruent with their individual tastes. While a person may reject materials for him/herself and his/her children, he/she may not restrict access to the materials by others

Large Print

Patron interest and the availability of a limited number of titles dictate the composition of the collection which is 80-90% fiction. The majority of large print books are titles already in the general collection. New titles are added when they meet the library's selection criteria. The most important factors in the selection of large print books are: popularity of author and/or genre, size of print, size of volume, quality of paper and binding, and cost.

Paperbacks

Due to the popularity of both the paperback format and many titles which are not otherwise available, the library maintains a large collection of mass market paperback books including both fiction and non-fiction. Because of their relatively low cost and ephemeral nature, these paperbacks are not cataloged.

The library is very much aware of public demand and often purchases paperback titles which are not notable for their content, literary quality, or artistic merit, but which have substantial popular appeal. Series and genres for which there is established demand are emphasized. Paperback editions of cataloged titles are purchased to help meet temporary demand.

When available, reviews or annotative descriptions of paperbacks are examined prior to purchase. Titles in paperback which would be new to the collection are examined by a member of the professional staff before being added.

Magazines

The Main Library maintains a representative collection of magazines intended to supplement the book collection. The focus of the magazine collection is on publications that will provide current information on a variety of popular and practical research topics. Included in this collection are business and industry journals as well as titles dealing with health issues, consumer product evaluations, hobbies and crafts, and arts and entertainment.

Videos

This collection consists mainly of informational, how-to, children's and popular entertainment videos. The collection includes feature length movies (children's and adult) intended for home use and other private showings which do not constitute public performances. Videos produced specifically for instructional use in the classroom are not purchased.

Gift Books

Gifts of books and other materials are accepted with the understanding that the library may make whatever use of the material it feels appropriate. The same criteria is used for gifts as for collection development.

Challenged Books

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