

PATTERSON LIBRARY

MATERIALS SELECTION

The Patterson Library provides materials, information services and programs to promote informed citizenship and life-long learning. The library is committed to meeting the personal and professional needs of the community residents. This service is provided on a fair and equitable basis to all individuals and groups of every age, sex, education, religion, philosophy, occupation, economic level, ethnic origin and human condition.

Due to the volume of resources as well as budget and space limitations, the library must have a selection policy with which to meet the interests and needs of the community in order to fulfill its objectives.

1. Books and library materials selection is vested in the library director and, under the direction of the library director, such members of the staff who are qualified by reason of education and/or training. Any book or library material so selected by staff shall be held to be approved by the library director.
2. Materials are selected in compliance with the mission and goals of the library on the basis of informational, educational, cultural and recreational value. The collection will include materials in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, print, audio-visual, and electronic. The following general criteria are also used in selecting materials for the collection:
 - Reviews in professional journals or other sources
 - Current community interest or demand
 - Authority, accuracy, and artistic quality
 - Existing library holdings
 - Timeliness
 - Availability of the material through the interlibrary loan system or other community or regional institutions
 - Format, including durability and ease of use
 - Financial constraints
3. The removal of materials, also called weeding, is an ongoing process directly related to collection development. The library maintains the quality of the collection by retaining or replacing essential materials and by removing items that are outdated, damaged or worn out, duplicated, no longer accurate, and no longer used. These criteria are outlined in detail in the professional publication The CREW Manual. The library does not automatically replace all items that are removed because of loss or damage. The professional staff of the library, under the general direction and supervision of the Library Director, will be solely responsible for the weeding of the collection. Items removed from the collection may be sold, given away, recycled, discarded, or otherwise disposed of at the discretion of the library. The library may also reduce the space dedicated to a collection if the collection is no longer as popular as it once was, thereby freeing up space to allocate to other collections more heavily utilized.
4. This library believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that, while anyone is free to reject materials of which one does not approve, one cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others to read. Selection practices shall attempt to incorporate all points of view or issues of public interest.
5. This library adopts and declares that it will adhere to and support the following documents from The American Library Association:
 - a) "The Library Bill of Rights"
 - b) "The Freedom to Read Statement"
 - c) "The Freedom to View Statement"