

SALADO PUBLIC LIBRARY

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Salado Public Library (SPL) Collection Development Policy is designed to assist the library director and staff in the selection and curation of Salado Public Library's collection of physical and digital items. This policy also supports the library district's vision, mission, and goals that "encourage a love of reading and provide lifelong learning opportunities." (See Salado Public Library Strategic Plan.)

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

While every patron may not agree with the viewpoints offered in some materials, the library is obligated to provide a balanced collection with access to differing perspectives and ideas. The library currently serves over 10,000 residents within the district's 134.36 square miles. The library's collection reflects their diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and interests. Each patron is free to choose what they want from the collection, reject what does not appeal to them, and hopefully find something that brings them enlightenment and enjoyment. Since the library provides materials presenting various points of view, the decision to acquire material does not constitute an endorsement of the material's content, viewpoint, implications, or means of expression of the materials.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for collection development lies with the library director and staff as they follow the library district's values, which include "welcoming all" and "providing materials, programs, and technology that are current, relevant, and broad enough for discovery." (See the Salado Public Library Long-Range Strategic Plan.)

The director and staff neither promote nor discourage particular viewpoints or opinions but strive to make the collection reflective of a variety of life experiences and the differing perspectives found in this growing district serving multiple ages, ethnicities, races, genders, religious preferences, reading interests, and other aspects.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selections of physical works of fiction, non-fiction, historical and genealogical resources, periodicals, and reference materials are made using the following criteria:

1. Positive, recommended review(s) in professional journals.
2. Nominations/appearance on awards lists. Professional journals and other resources to include, but not limited to: Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, BookList, Horn Book, New York Times Best

Seller List, etc. Awards lists to include, but not limited to: Lariat List, Bluebonnet Awards List, Tayshas, Pulitzer Prize, Booker Prize, Edgar Awards, Hugo Award, National Book Award for Fiction, Pen/Faulkner Award, Carnegie Medal, ALA, and other Texas lists.

3. Contents that are timely and represent various viewpoints and beliefs.
4. Reputation of the author, editor, producer, illustrator, or publishing company.
5. Contemporary significance, potential usefulness, appeal, accuracy, or cultural value.
6. Popularity and media attention generating demand.
7. Patron input, as indicated by requests (verbal and written).
8. Variety of formats – books, audiobooks, digital materials, DVDs, CDs, etc.
9. Price, budget limitations, space and anticipated value over time.

Salado Public Library evaluates materials for inclusion of the total effect of the work rather than specific illustrations, words, passages or scenes. The library director, staff, and district board also do not presume to take on the courts' role in interpreting laws on obscenity, subversive materials, and other questionable subject matter. The library staff, director, and board adhere to state and federal laws on sexually explicit materials in public libraries.

The library also participates in digital borrowing consortia, through which additional titles are made available to patrons. While these partnerships expand access, Salado Public Library does not exercise direct control over the selection or availability of materials provided by the consortia and, therefore, cannot guarantee that all content aligns with its local selection criteria.

COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

Evaluation of the collection is a continuous process, aimed at maintaining a dynamic, relevant collection. Maintenance periodically requires withdrawal/weeding of items that are no longer useful, replacement of withdrawn or missing items, and the addition of items where there are gaps. Weeding is based on circulation data (how often an item is checked out), irreparable damage, obsolescence, and space.

Replacing withdrawn items depends on demand, duplication and availability of other current materials that meet the same need. Withdrawn items may be given to the Friends of the Salado Public Library, other community charities, or as a last resort, recycled.

CLASSIFICATION & PLACEMENT

Several factors determine the placement of materials at the library. The Dewey Decimal Classification, which divides material by subject, is used to arrange the non-fiction collections. Materials are classified under broad headings, such as “Adult Fiction,” “Young Adult Fiction,” “Juvenile Nonfiction,” etc. Professional reviews and publisher information on age appropriateness also aid librarians in selecting and placing material.

Space does not allow for completely isolating children’s offerings, and the library staff does not assume parenting duties. Responsibility for overseeing minors’ use of the library collection rests with parents or legal guardians, not the library. The library permits minors (below age 18) to borrow materials with parental consent, per the library card rules. (See policy on patron behavior..)

RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Patrons who object to any of the library’s physical materials may request reconsideration of materials per the district’s Request for Reconsideration policy. (*See Policy on Reconsideration of Materials for more details and reconsideration form.*) Items being reconsidered will not be removed until a final decision has been made.

DONATIONS

Donations may be accepted for placement in the Salado Public Library collection. The director and staff will determine which donations to accept using the same criteria for purchasing items. The value of accepted donations will be assigned by the donor. The library is not obligated to add donations to its collection. Donations that are not accepted will be returned to the donor, where feasible, or given to the Friends of the Salado Public Library, other community charities, or recycled.

The Salado Public Library is accredited by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which sets library standards along with the Texas Library Association. In addition, the Salado Public Library is committed to the principles of intellectual freedom in the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the Freedom to View Statement.

THIS COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY IS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE SALADO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT ON APRIL 27, 2026.

Nancy Mills Mackey

PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY