

SALADO PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Salado Public Library (SPL) Collection Development Policy is designed to assist the SPL director and staff in the selection and curation of the library's collection of almost 27,000 physical and 270,000 digital items. This policy also supports the SPL District's vision, mission and goals that "encourage a love of reading and provide lifelong learning opportunities."

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."

The director and staff are familiar with the collection, the district, and library policies. They neither promote nor discourage particular viewpoints or opinions. They 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 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
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, 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.

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 Maintenance periodically requires withdrawal/weeding of items that are no longer useful, replacement of withdrawn or missing items, and the addition of items where there are gaps.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Replacing withdrawn items depends on demand, duplication and availability of other current materials that meet the same need. Withdrawn items may be given to the Friends of the SPL, other community charities, or as a last resort, recycled.

DONATIONS

Donations may be accepted for placement in the SPL 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 SPL, other community charities, or 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.

Despite their classification and placement, the library’s collection is available to all ages. Space does not allow isolating children’s offerings, and the library staff does not assume parenting duties. Therefore, the library district board, director and staff respect the need of parents, guardians, and caregivers to supervise their children’s library use and reading choices. (*See POLICY on Patron Behavior and supervision of children.*)

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.

RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Patrons who object to a collection decision or selection may request re-evaluation of materials by filling out a reconsideration form and following the district’s reconsideration policy.

Reconsideration is decided by a committee appointed by the library director or by the SPL District Board upon appeal of the committee’s decision. (*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.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

While every patron may not agree with 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 almost 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.

The SPL is accredited by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which sets library standards along with the Texas Library Association. In addition, the SPL 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 FEBRUARY 26, 2024.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY