

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PLAN**

**FISCAL YEARS**

**2022-2024**

**St. Johns County**  

---

**Public Library System**

# **ST. JOHNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM**

## **COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PLAN**

### **2022-2024**

The St. Johns County Public Library System's (the Library) Collection Development Policy and Plan (the Plan) was developed under the direction of the Library System Director (the Director) by a committee consisting of Technical Services Manager, Branch Managers, the Acquisitions Librarian and selected staff. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Library Management Team, Collection Development Committee, and the Director before being sent to the Library Advisory Board and Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

#### **STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVE OF POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to define the underlying principles that direct the development and management of the Library's collection. This policy guides the selection, acquisition, accessibility, maintenance, preservation and scope of the St. Johns County Library collection. It establishes roles and responsibilities and defines a process for addressing patron questions and concerns. The Library should review the Plan no less than every three (3) years.

It is the objective of the Library to provide the citizens of St. Johns County informational, recreational, educational, and cultural materials in a variety of formats. These materials and resources will cover a broad range of knowledge and interests and will include both basic works of permanent value and timely materials on current issues and interests. The goal will be to build well-balanced collections for the general public. Due to limitations of space and budget, the Library's collections will not be able to satisfy all requests for materials. The Library will serve in an educational, adjunct support role to the schools, viewing the school media center as the primary source for school related assignments. Requests for specialized materials that are beyond the scope or budget of the collection may be sought through interlibrary loans (ILL) according to the current Interlibrary Loan Policy. Staff will uphold the intellectual freedom guidelines, as stated in the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" by fulfilling as many patron requests as possible. This policy will be periodically reviewed by designated staff, the Library Advisory Board, and ultimately submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for concurrence to ensure that it is responsive to both the changing needs and objectives of the Library and the changing nature of the community and the budget.

## **SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

### ***RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION AND PATRON RECOMMENDATIONS***

Ultimate responsibility for the selection of all library materials and resources rests with the Director, who operates within the framework of established policies, goals and objectives approved by the Library Advisory Board, and then submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for concurrence. The Director, however, will delegate to staff the authority to implement this policy in the routine selection process. The Library follows a hybrid model for collection development that focuses on a patron-driven request-based acquisitions system along with use of subject selectors and individuals based in the library branches that have more narrowly defined selection responsibilities. The Library welcomes recommendations for material selections from the general public. Patrons may make materials requests using the Library's online ILL & Purchase Recommendation form, or make a request directly through the Library Staff. In addition, patrons may request OverDrive eBooks from the Library's OverDrive site. These requests are limited and will be considered based on selection criteria, availability of an item, budgetary limitations, and demand for the item. Every effort will be made to obtain items for patrons through the Library's Interlibrary Loan or purchasing process. Library Staff will attempt to notify the patron of the outcome of his or her selection request. Fees may apply for out-of-network Interlibrary Loans. Subject selectors may be an individual selecting for a certain area(s) of the collection for all branches in the county, or a group of defined individuals selecting materials for specific subject areas, such as Reference or Juvenile materials. Subject selectors are held responsible for performing the searching and verification necessary to ensure accuracy and completeness of information for selection decision-making, such as running and compiling necessary statistics for firm and standing order decisions. Selection tools include, but are not limited to, reviews in accredited journals of librarianship as well as other reputable national magazines, the professional judgments of the librarians and other outside resources.

### ***SELECTION REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AND INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM***

The Library and the Library Advisory Board subscribe in principle to the statements of the policy on selection and intellectual freedom as expressed in the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights". Any requests for reconsideration of library materials will be referred to the Director, or their designees, who will provide a copy of the "Library Bill of Rights" to the patron and explain the significance of its provisions.

If the patron desires to pursue the request, they will submit a completed Patron Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form, including the name and address of the requestor, to the Director. The Director and their designated in-house Library Staff will review this form. The in-house staff will make a recommendation regarding the request for reconsideration to the Director, who has the discretion to approve or reject the recommendation. The Director will then notify the patron of their decision.

If the patron is not satisfied with the Director's decision, the patron may request a review by the Library Advisory Board. The patron will be informed of the date, time, and location of the Library Advisory Board meeting where the Reconsideration Request will be addressed. The patron may appear before the Library Advisory Board. Challenged materials will not be removed during the reconsideration process. The Library Advisory Board will make the final decision regarding the reconsideration of an item.

## ***COLLECTION PRIORITIES***

### **Low Level Priority Collections**

Large Print Non-Fiction & Biographies

Magazines & Comics

Graphic Novels

Music

### **Mid-Level Priority Collections**

Adult Non-Fiction

Young Adult Fiction

Audiobooks

Biographies

### **Top Level Priority Collections**

Children's (all juvenile and middle grade collections)

Movies

Adult Fiction

Large Print Fiction

eContent in all formats (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's/Young Adult, eAudiobooks, streaming services)

## ***SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCESSES***

The overall criteria listed below apply to all collections, including but not limited to Children's, Young Adult, Adult, and Reference Collections. Statements follow describing specific collection areas. Professional selection aids will be used for review of materials. Items will be purchased or leased based on the selectors' evaluation and availability as well as the number of patron requests for the item.

### **Fiction**

The following criteria will be used as guidelines in the selection of fiction materials for children, young adults, adults, and reference:

- 1) Literary merit and style
- 2) Circulation statistics of author / series
- 3) Price and physical quality
- 4) Quality of illustrations
- 5) Relationship to existing collection
- 6) Social significance
- 7) Reputation and significance of an author and/or illustrator
- 8) Reputation of a publisher
- 9) Shelving space limitations

## **Nonfiction**

The following criteria will be used as guidelines in selection of nonfiction materials for children, young adults, adults, and reference:

- 1) Accuracy and authenticity of factual material presented
- 2) Quality of writing
- 3) Circulation of materials in the various subject areas
- 4) Relation of work to existing collection
- 5) Reputation and significance of an author
- 6) Permanent or timely value
- 7) Price and physical quality
- 8) Reputation of a publisher
- 9) Quality of illustrations
- 10) Arrangement/indexing
- 11) Quantity owned in subject area
- 12) Shelving space limitations

## **Electronic Resources**

As one of our most popular and still-growing collections, the library subscribes to several e-content platforms that work on a variety of electronic devices. The following criteria will be used as guidelines in the selection and retention of electronic resources (defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of an electronic device including online data and electronic data made available in a physical format) for children, young adults, adults, and reference. Electronic resources are evaluated on an ongoing basis.

- 1) Circulation of materials
- 2) Relation of work to existing collection
- 3) Permanent or timely value
- 4) Physical space considerations – inability to house permanent physical copies of books
- 5) Cost per use / Cost per circulation (R.O.I)
- 6) Platform fees and requirements
- 7) Single versus multiuse availability
- 8) Authenticity of the media: currency, accuracy, and freedom from bias
- 9) Potential utilization: interest level, user appeal
- 10) Content: organization, imagination, timeliness, appropriateness, uniqueness
- 11) Format / Layout of information
- 12) Availability of equipment to access the material or resource
- 13) Cost of any specialized equipment needed for access

14) System Compatibility: The work should operate on equipment or operating systems currently available. Resources requiring extensive, specialized, and/or expensive new equipment or storage space to make them available will be acquired only if the research value is indisputably high.

**Standards:** The work should meet commonly used technical standards and digital formats.

**Ease of Use:** The work requires minimum training and clearly written vendor provided documentation.

**Maintenance:** Staff support including back-ups and migrations to new releases.

## ***SPECIFIC COLLECTION AREAS***

### **Government Documents**

**Federal** - The Library acquires very few federal documents to add to the collection. Materials most frequently needed or requested are found on the Internet. This means of access seems to satisfy nearly all information needs. This purchasing practice does not preclude the acquisition of federal government documents if a particular item best serves the public or staff by acquiring it and adding it to the collection.

**State** - The Library acquires very few state documents to add to the collection. Many of the state produced materials are available in a timely manner through the Internet and this has become the primary means to access state-produced information.

**Local** - The Library receives local documents from the County and the two municipalities (St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach) on an irregular basis. Items received from any of these jurisdictions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they should be cataloged or kept as ephemeral materials.

### **Foreign Language**

Due to a limited demand, very few foreign language materials are purchased. Nearly all purchases are Spanish language materials. Donations of materials in other languages are evaluated as to need according to the same guidelines used for the acceptance of gifts. This purchasing practice will be revisited when staff indicates that demand for these materials has increased, or when local demographics indicate a need for these materials.

The current purchasing practice for foreign language materials does not preclude the acquisition of foreign language dictionaries or music.

### **Children's Collection**

The purpose of the Children's collection is to foster the desire to read and discover the enjoyment of reading. This will be done by providing a variety of formats including print, non-print and electronic. The objective of material selection will be to provide a collection that helps satisfy the informational, recreational, educational, and cultural needs and interests of children through elementary school. In addition to the general criteria listed above, suitability of content, vocabulary, and style of presentation for the intended audience are also considered. To this end, the Library maintains lists of popular authors and series that are automatically ordered from our primary book vendor. The Library also orders all New York Times-bestselling children's material from both the picture book and chapter book lists. The Library will serve in an educational, adjunct support role to the schools, viewing the school media center as the primary source for textbooks and school- related assignments.

### **Middle Grade Collection**

The purpose of the Middle Grade collection is to continue to foster the desire to read and enjoyment of reading geared towards readers in the middle school years. This will be done by providing a variety of formats including print, non-print and electronic. The objective of material selection will be to provide a collection that helps satisfy the informational, recreational, educational, and cultural needs and interests of middle grade readers. This collection is transitional in nature, offering materials that bridge the children's collection and the young adult collections. In addition to the general criteria listed above, suitability of content, vocabulary, and style of presentation for the intended audience are also considered. To this end, the Library maintains lists of popular authors and series that are automatically ordered from our primary book vendor. The Library will serve in an educational, adjunct support role to the schools, viewing the school media center as the primary source for textbooks and school-related assignments.

### **Young Adult Collection**

The selection of young adult fiction involves the attempt to satisfy a variety of tastes and provide vital and relevant collection of materials for high school aged teens through young adults. Selection is based on the needs of all types of readers for sub-genres of differing natures. This will be done by providing a variety of formats including print, non-print and electronic. To ensure materials stay relevant, the Library maintains a list of popular young adult fiction authors whose works are automatically ordered from our primary book vendor. The Library also orders any New York Times-bestselling fiction that we do not currently own. Young Adult fiction has wide appeal because of its ability to entertain, educate, and stimulate. It also highlights many of the social, psychological, political, religious, and other ideas of the past, present, and future. The Library aims to provide works accepted as classics as well as those novels that portray many aspects of contemporary society.

### **Adult Fiction Collection**

The selection of adult fiction involves the attempt to satisfy a variety of tastes. Selection is based on the needs of all types of readers for genres of differing natures. These genres include but are not limited to: contemporary, romance, westerns, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, humor, mysteries, and short stories. This will be done by providing a variety of formats including print, non-print and electronic. To ensure materials stay relevant, the Library maintains a list of popular fiction authors, updated biennially, whose works are automatically ordered from our primary book vendor. The Library also orders any New York Times-bestselling fiction that we do not currently own. Fiction has wide appeal because of its ability to entertain, educate, and stimulate. It also highlights many of the social, psychological, political, religious, and other ideas of the past, present, and future. The Library aims to provide works accepted as classics as well as those novels that portray many aspects of contemporary society. Notable and popular titles in all important fiction categories will be considered for inclusion in an attempt to satisfy public demand.

### **Adult Nonfiction Collection**

Adult nonfiction deals with prose writing that is based on facts, real events and real people. These fields may include but are not limited to: biography, philosophy, religion, social sciences, the sciences, the arts, and history. The Library aims to provide a balanced, up-to-date, and relevant collection in these fields to satisfy the informational, recreational, educational, and cultural needs and interests of the community. This will be done by providing a variety of formats including print, non-print and electronic.

## **Reference Collection**

There are three types of materials actively collected by the St. Johns County Public Library System for Reference Collections that do not circulate – General Reference, Florida Reference, and Genealogy:

**General Reference** – The General Reference collection is primarily provided through the use of electronic resources and databases, supplemented by a print reference collection. The purpose of this collection is to provide up-to-date information on a variety of subjects. Only a small portion of these print items remain as General Reference titles that cannot be circulated.

**Florida Reference** – The St. Johns County Public Library System enjoys its location on Florida's First Coast and is home to St. Augustine, the oldest continuously-occupied city in the United States. The public library system focuses its attention on collecting copyrighted and published materials for our local history reference collections. Unpublished materials are better suited for local organizations with archival professionals.

**Genealogy** – The Library may purchase genealogy items that have a popular demand or fit the parameters of the Adult Non-Fiction Collection. The Library may work closely with the St. Johns County Genealogical Society to identify and acquire materials to meet the community's needs. Items identified for the collection are either donated by the St. Johns County Genealogical Society or purchased by the Library if deemed necessary.

## **Music Compact Disc (CD)**

Music compact discs are collected on a limited basis representing a wide variety of genres. Compact discs are purchased by the Library or received through donation and are fully cataloged. The Library also offers music digitally through streaming services.

## **Newspapers**

Local newspapers, including community newspapers, are the highest priority for purchase. Selected major newspapers from the region, state, and the United States are also purchased. The newspapers to which each Library location subscribes, and the time for which each newspaper is held at each Library, are found in the online catalog.

## **Periodicals**

Periodicals are purchased at selected branches for adults, young adults, and children. These cover a variety of subject areas and interests to meet the patron needs of each location. The Library also offers digital magazine content. Periodicals are selected and provided for the public primarily for their current informational (not archival or research) value. Gifts of periodical subscriptions are encouraged. The Library staff annually reviews and renews our print and e-magazine offerings to adjust for usage, budgetary limitations, and patron demand. Each Library location's periodicals and back files are contained in the online catalog. The Library staff annually reviews and renews our print and e-magazine offerings to adjust for usage, budgetary limitations, and relevancy to the Library's patrons.



## **Video Recordings**

This category primarily includes DVD and Blu-Ray formats. Feature films are purchased based on box office earnings, reviews, budget allotments, and demand. Premium cable/network series, documentaries, educational/child-oriented materials, award-winners, and works of literary or local interest are collected on a limited basis according to popularity, reviews, and demand. Video recordings may be procured by purchase or donation. Duplication rights are not typically sought when procuring a video recording. Public Performance rights for selected studios are obtained via license annually for all Library locations.

Television series are primarily collected and maintained through monetary and physical donations due to the high expense of collecting and maintaining adult fiction television series. The Library limits purchases for television series to shows based on patron demand and available funding.

## ***GIFTS/DONATIONS***

The Library welcomes gifts and donations of library materials and other contributions from individuals, organizations, businesses, and other sources. The criteria for acceptance of gifts of library materials are as follows:

- Gifts and donations will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the Library Materials Selection Policy.
- Gifts and donations must be in good condition.

Usable gifts and donations will be placed in the most suitable collection as determined by staff. The Library will attempt to honor the donor's wishes regarding the subject material requested, provided such requests are in accordance with the needs of the Library. Materials accepted into the collection are subject to standard weeding practices of the library system.

The Library reserves the right to accept or refuse any gift. Gifts not accepted for the library collection may be diverted to other worthy organizations with consideration given to the Friends of the Library for their book sales. Donated materials in poor condition will be discarded.

The Library cannot be held responsible for the cost evaluation of gift materials for income tax purposes.

## **Acknowledgment of Gifts**

The Library will acknowledge, in writing, all cash donations and the receipt of gifts upon a donor's request. When appropriate, some donations may be referred to the Friends of the Library. Library materials purchased or received as memorials or in honor of individuals or for groups and organizations may have gift plates affixed displaying the donor's name and the person or group for whom the gift was purchased.

## ***EXCLUDED FROM THE COLLECTION***

Certain material formats and subject fields are not collected or added to the collection. The items excluded are: rare books, textbooks (unless they provide the best or only item in a collected subject field), slides, 16mm films, filmstrips, records (phonographic discs), artwork, sculpture, software, highly technical and specialized materials (unless they provide the best or only item in a collected subject

field), audiocassettes, VHS, pop-up and spiral bound books for circulating purposes, microform, and any format which will not withstand repeated public use. Items which are normally excluded from the collection may be added at the discretion of the Library System Director when the addition of the specific item to the Library collection will be in the best interest of the Library or the community.

## ***COLLECTION EVALUATION AND MAINTENANCE***

### **Floating Collections**

Floating collections are collections that have been identified by librarians to remain at the location where they are checked in. This allows the collection to have a fresh new look for the patrons system wide and reduce costs. For these reasons, most collections float, so they may be housed at any branch as needed. In addition to being more economical, floating collections improve efficiency for patrons, as they allow items to move freely among all library branches.

In order to maintain a viable, up to date collection of library materials, decisions will be made on a continuous basis on how to handle materials that are no longer relevant to the collection. Reevaluation decisions include whether to mend, bind, replace or weed library materials. The following guidelines will assist library staff in the reevaluation process:

### **Weeding**

It is essential for libraries to weed their collections. Weeding allows the collection to remain balanced between new authors and titles and older works of historical and community significance.

In order to remain in line with mission and goals of the Library, weeding in all areas of the collection is required to take place continuously. Weeding criteria are based on a combination of the following:

- 1) Relevance and currency; titles reflect current interest and needs of the community
- 2) Physical condition
- 3) Turnover rate and date of last check out
- 4) Accessibility / overcrowding of areas
- 5) Overall value of item to the collection (is it part of an ongoing series, is it a frequent ILL)
- 6) Number of copies
- 7) Availability in alternate formats.

In order to track efficient and effective weeding, the Library will keep a weeding record, which allows for progress reports and monitoring of the overall collection.

### **Replacement**

While the Library attempts to have copies of all standard and important works, it does not attempt to replace each copy withdrawn due to loss, damage, or wear. Decisions will be based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- 1) Demand for the specific item
- 2) Number of copy holdings
- 3) Existing coverage of the subject within the system
- 4) Availability of newer and better materials on the subject

- 5) Price of replacement copy
- 6) Literary merit and style
- 7) Circulation statistics of author / series7)
- 8) Price
- 9) Quality of illustrations
- 10) Relationship to existing collection
- 11) Social significance
- 12) Reputation and significance of an author and/or illustrator
- 13) Reputation of a publisher
- 14) Availability
- 15) Filling gaps in a fictional series

### **Re-Binding and Repair of Materials**

Factors for consideration for binding include:

- 1) Value and use of the title
- 2) Possibility of replacement
- 3) Physical condition, including quality of paper, margins, and illustrations
- 4) Cost of rebinding versus cost of replacement
- 5) Number of copy holdings

**PATRON REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, PROGRAMS, DISPLAYS, HANDOUTS ETC.**

The St. Johns County Public Library System welcomes the feedback of its patrons concerning the suitability of items in the collection of library materials, programs, displays, handouts etc. The Library System Director and designated in-house Library staff will review this request. The Library System Director will advise the patron of the result of this review. If the patron is not satisfied with the decision, they may request a review by the Library Advisory Board. Challenged materials etc. will not be removed during the reconsideration process. Challenged Library programs may be rescheduled pending the outcome of the reconsideration process. The Library Advisory Board shall make the final decision regarding this request.

**Date Received by Library System Director \_\_\_\_\_**

Name of Person Originating Request

Title, Content or Subject Matter

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address

Author / Producer

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code

ISBN / ISSN

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone

Publisher

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SJCPLS Library Card Barcode Number

Branch Library where material etc. is located

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this item a: Book\_\_\_ Periodical\_\_\_ DVD\_\_\_ Audio Book\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you represent:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yourself

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization (Name)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Group (Name)\_\_\_\_\_

**1. What is your concern? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes, etc.**

---

---

---

**2. What do you feel might be the result of attending this program or reading, hearing or seeing this work etc.?**

---

---

---

**3. For what age group would you recommend this program, work etc.?**

---

---

**4. Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work etc.? (If not, what parts did you evaluate?)**

---

---

**5. How were you made aware of this program, work, etc.?**

---

---

**6. Do you know what professional critics and reviewers think of this work?**

---

---

---

**7. What do you believe is the theme of this program, work, etc.?**

---

---

**8. What would you like the library to do about this issue?**

---

---

**9. What material do you recommend to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?**

---

---

**10. Additional comments:**

---

---

---

---

**The St. Johns County Public Library System appreciates your interest in the Library's collection. You will receive notification of the status of your request as soon as the review process is complete.**

---

**Signature of Patron Submitting Reconsideration Form Date**

---

**Signature of Staff Member Receiving Reconsideration Form Date**

**Distribution: Original to Library System Director, 1 copy to Patron, 1 copy to Branch Manager.**