

Collection Development & Maintenance Policy

The North Hampton Public Library provides materials of merit on diverse viewpoints, with both current and permanent value, as part of its mission to meet the educational, cultural, informational, and recreational interests and needs of the North Hampton community.

The Library subscribes to the principles stated in the Library Bill of Rights, a document issued by the American Library Association, which affirms a commitment to the rights of an individual to use the Library regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, or social or political views. Accordingly, the staff of the North Hampton Public Library provides equal service to all library users. Children and adults are equally free to use the entire library, and to borrow all materials in the circulating collection.

In addition to the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read statement and the Freedom to View statement of the American Library Association are endorsed by the Trustees and staff of the library, and provide the general foundation for all selection decisions. These documents can be found on the American Library Association's website. <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/>
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

Library Roles

North Hampton Public Library serves a community of a wide range of ages, educational levels, and interests. To meet this diversity, the Library must fill a number of service roles for the community such as:

Information and adult independent learning center – The Library provides materials which help users to be informed, and to pursue self-improvement in hobbies, careers, and education

- ✓ Early education center – The Library encourages young children to develop an interest in reading and learning through services for children and parents

- ✓ Popular materials center – The Library provides recreational books and audio-visual materials to meet a wide range of tastes and to reflect the diversity of the community.
- ✓ Reading and program center for children and young adults – The Library offers materials and programs specifically designed for the interests and needs of children and young adults.
- ✓ Education support center – The Library assists students of all ages in meeting educational objectives established during their formal or self-directed courses of study.
- ✓ Community center – The Library serves as a meeting place for people and groups in the community.
- ✓ Cultural Center – The library brings materials and programs of cultural interest to the community
- ✓ Local history and genealogy center – the Library provides information on community and family history of local interest.

Collection Development Objectives

The Library will strive to:

- ✓ Provide materials that meet patrons' interest and needs in a timely manner
- ✓ Provide materials for preschool and grade school children to encourage and promote continued use of the library
- ✓ Provide a broadly-based and diverse collection that can support the roles of the library as a popular materials center, education support center, and independent learning center.
- ✓ Provide a variety of viewpoints on all subjects in its collections.

Selection

Materials for the collection are selected by the professional staff with attention to the following criteria: contemporary significance or permanent value; authority of the author and accuracy of the work; relation of the work to the existing collection; price, format and ease of use; scarcity of information in the subject area; availability of materials elsewhere in the community; popular demand; subject suitability; technical quality (for non-print formats).

Every attempt will be made to provide a basic level of general information in all subject areas, and to collect information that responsibly presents representative views on issues of concern to community members. Areas which may exceed the basic level of collection are materials by New Hampshire or North Hampton authors, as well as materials about New Hampshire or North Hampton.

The Library will attempt to have information available in a variety of formats when practical, such as print periodicals, audio and visual materials, digital resources, and online resources. Multiple copies of popular materials in print or digital form may be purchased to meet demand.

The Library will not acquire textbooks that support local curricula. Nor will the Library collect non-print items or realia such as furniture, personal possessions, art objects, household objects, or natural history specimens.

The Library welcomes suggestions for the purchase of materials. Suggestions will be subject to the same standards of selection as other considered materials.

Reviews by professionals in the field recommending age appropriateness of material aid staff librarians in choosing and placing material within the library's collections. While collections for adults and children may be housed separately, patrons of any age may use the entire collection.

The Library will not act in loco parentis, censor, or label materials in such a way that patrons may be predisposed against them, or restrict access to materials because of a patron's age. It is the responsibility of the parents, not the library staff, to monitor library use by children.