Butte County Library Collection Development Policy

Butte County Library provides library service to residents of Butte County through six branches and the Library Literacy Department, which includes a mobile unit. The Butte County Library collection is developed in response to needs and interests of the communities served.

The Collection Development Policy provides guidelines for the selection, organization, and maintenance of the collection. The Butte County Board of Supervisors entrusts the responsibility for materials selection with the Library Director, who in turn delegates selection of library collections to designated staff. Individuals and groups will have access to a library collection that meets separate and diverse interests, backgrounds, cultural heritage, social values, and needs. The Butte County Library adheres to the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements. The Board recognizes that the library is a community resource for people of all ages, races, creeds, national origins, sexual orientation, and political or social views. A variety of viewpoints are represented in the library collection and the library upholds the right of the individual to obtain information, though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. The existence of a particular viewpoint in the collection is an expression of the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and not an endorsement of the particular point of view.

Materials Selection

Decisions about adding materials to the library collection are made through the application of general selection criteria, regardless of whether the material under consideration is purchased or donated. One or more of the following selection criteria must be met for material to be added to the collection:

Content of the work and its significance or contribution to the diversity or breadth of the collection;

Evaluation of the work in professionally recognized critical review sources;

Authority, significance, competence of the author, producer, or publisher of the work; Quality and suitability of all formats;

Accuracy and timeliness of the material;

Expressed and/or perceived interest or demand for the material in the collection based on requests, data, etc.;

Local interest or community relevance;

Effectiveness and suitability of the format for a public library;

Impact on the materials budget

Suggestions from patrons are evaluated based on the above criteria. Self-published and self-produced works are considered using the same criteria. Gift subscriptions to periodicals must be approved by individual branches, be for a term of two years or longer and be received through the mail.

Library materials are selected to meet the educational, recreational, listening and viewing needs of adults, teens, and children.

Collection Maintenance

The collection is continuously assessed, and the following criteria are used in evaluating whether an item should be removed from the collection.

Accuracy
Obsolescence
Completeness (sets)
Availability of similar materials
Local community needs and interests
Historical value
Ephemeral materials
Extra copies
Frequency of use
Space in the library
Physical condition

Materials that are no longer of value or of interest to the public are withdrawn from the collection and may be sold, recycled, or discarded.

At any time, the public may ask for reconsideration of an item by completing a Butte County Library Materials Comment form, available at all branch libraries.

This policy will be reviewed by the librarian in consultation with the Library Advisory Board at least every five years.