

Collection Development Policy

Lyme Free Library

The Lyme Free Library Collection Development Policy provides a framework for the growth and development of collections in support of the Library's mission to provide free and equitable access to cultural and educational experiences and celebrate ideas, promote creativity, connect people, and enrich lives.

It is the Library's goal to provide our community with library materials that reflect a wide range of views, expressions, opinions and interests. Specific acquisitions may include items that may be unpopular with the majority or controversial in nature. The Library's acquisition of these items does not constitute endorsement of their content but rather makes available its expression.

The Library provides free access to materials in a number of formats (print, media and electronic) to all customers. Library users make their own choices as to what they will use based on individual interests and concerns. Lyme Free Library supports the right of each family to decide which items are appropriate for use by their children. Responsibility for a child's use of library materials lies with his or her parent or guardian.

Acquisitions: The Library Director is responsible for collection development under policies approved by the Board of Trustees. Materials selected will be those titles which occasion high demand and interest, which provide information on current issues, or serve to create a balanced collection for general information, self-education, and reference. Materials are meant to reflect a variety of opinions, stimulate understanding and growth, enhance job-related knowledge and skills, and increase knowledge and participation in affairs of the community, nation, and world. The collection will not serve to represent any particular doctrine or point of view. Factors in selection may include cost, perceived long term value, authority and accuracy of the author, and multiple review sources. Selection recommendations are encouraged from both patrons and staff.

Freedom to Read: Lyme Free Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements.

Weeding: The requirements of space and sound library practice dictate that the collection be regularly examined for materials that should be removed or replaced. Books which have suffered extended periods of declining interest, which have no permanent literary, historical or local interest, and have no anticipated use may be removed. Books which no longer provide accurate information or which suffer damage or deterioration will also be removed and replaced as advisable. Discarded books will be added to our "Books on the Bus" program at Lyme Central School, or sold at our annual book sale.

Gifts and Donations: The library accepts gifts of books and other materials with the understanding that they will be added to the collection only if appropriate and needed. If they are not needed because of duplication, condition, or dated information they will be added to our "Books on the Bus" program at Lyme Central School, or sold at our annual book sale.

Adopted by The Lyme Free Library Board of Trustees on January 10 2022.