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COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The Board endorses and incorporates as a part of this policy the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights (Exhibit 5.01a) and Freedom to Read Statement (Exhibit 5.01b). Since the Library's concern is the communication of ideas and information, these statements are extended for the purpose of this policy to include all material in any format. The purpose of this policy is to articulate the role of the Library's collection in the community and provide direction to staff members in their role as selectors.

In order to implement the collection development and maintenance policy, staff will design, and periodically revise, a list of criteria that will provide a framework for planning the content and nature of the Library's collection, for identifying the scope of the existing collection, and for developing plans for shaping a stronger collection. Specifically, staff will acquire, make available, and encourage the use of materials in all media that:

1. help people know more about themselves and their world;
2. supplement formal study and encourage informal self-education;
3. meet the diverse informational needs and recreational interests of all people in the community;
4. stimulate thoughtful participation in the affairs of the community, the country, and the world;
5. give access to a variety of opinions on matters of current interest and encourage freedom of expression;
6. support educational, civic, and cultural activities within the community;
7. aid in learning and improving job-related skills; and
8. assist the individual to grow intellectually and enjoy life more fully.

There is no single standard which can be applied in all cases when making an acquisition decision. Each type of material will be considered in terms of its own kind of excellence and the audience for which it is intended. Some materials will be judged primarily in terms of artistic merit, scholarship, or value as human documents; others will be selected to satisfy the recreational and entertainment needs of the community. Some materials evaluated are subject to widespread or local demand; items experiencing such demand may be added to the collection even though they do not meet the general and specific criteria routinely used by staff in making selection decisions.

The Board encourages public input on Library collections and invites Boise residents to make recommendations for purchases. Such recommendations will be given serious

consideration by Library staff in accordance with the general and specific criteria used in making selection decisions.

The Director or designee shall examine the collection regularly for the purpose of selection, assessment and retention of materials. The same criteria will be used in weeding materials from the collection as are used in their acquisition.

The ultimate responsibility for selection rests with the Director, who operates within the framework of this policy.