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THE NATURE AND QUALITY OF MATERIALS

To build a collection of merit and significance consistent with the Library's mission and strategic objectives, the Director or designee will evaluate materials against general and specific criteria; selections are made in accordance with one or more of these criteria:

General Criteria

1. suitability of physical form for library use
2. suitability of subject and style for intended audience
3. present and potential relevance to community needs
4. appropriateness of medium to content
5. insight into human and social condition
6. importance as a document of the times
7. relation to existing collection and other material on subject
8. reputation and/or significance of author
9. skill, competence, and purpose of author
10. attention of critics, reviewers, and public
11. currency
12. affordability

Specific Criteria for Works of Non-Fiction, Regardless of Format

1. scope and authority of subject matter
2. comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
3. objectivity
4. accuracy and logic of presentation
5. clarity of style
6. representation of challenging, though extreme or minority, point of view
7. scarcity of information in subject field
8. self-published materials are generally not added due to lack of editor oversight and fact checking

Specific Criteria for Works of Fiction, Regardless of Format

1. representation of important movement, genre, trend, or national culture
2. vitality and originality
3. artistic presentation
4. sustained interest
5. effective characterization and/or a realistic portrayal of life
6. authenticity of historical or social setting
7. representation of diverse points of view
8. entertaining and imaginative appeal to the general-interest reader

Staff will also consider the adequacy and availability of materials in other community agencies when making selection decisions. To avoid unnecessary duplication of materials, established special collections that are available for public and/or professional

use (e.g., public universities; State Law Library, corporate libraries) will be considered the primary sources for academic and specialized materials. Library materials are selected for the general reader rather than the specialist.

Although the Library attempts to provide material on many subjects and grade levels, no attempt is made to match the collection to a particular curriculum. The provision of curriculum-related materials is generally the responsibility of the schools or homeschooling family. The Library may provide materials that supplement and enrich curriculum-related materials when community demand indicates the need for resources for individual use as opposed to school classroom use. Materials may be purchased to meet these needs to the extent funds allow without creating a collection imbalance in other areas.