COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR
NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Purpose of Collection Development Policy
The collection development policy is intended to provide guidance, within budgetary and space limitations, for the selection and evaluation of materials which anticipate and meet the needs and interests of the Nashville community. It directly relates the collection to the Library's mission statement, and defines the scope and standards of the various collections.

As the community changes, Nashville Public Library (NPL) reassesses and adapts its collections to reflect new and differing areas of interest and concern. The collection development policy is periodically evaluated and revised as necessary to provide guidance for implementing changes in the collection.

NPL Mission, Vision and Values
Mission: Inspire reading, advance learning and connect our community.
Vision: All members of our diverse community are empowered through limitless learning opportunities to enrich their lives.
We Value:
- Extraordinary Customer Service
- Love of Reading
- Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Innovation
- Excellence
- Inclusiveness

Philosophy of Selection
In support of its mission “to inspire reading, advance learning and connect our community,” NPL fully endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. The Library upholds the right of the individual to secure information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. Materials available in the Library present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy.

Scope of the Collection
The primary responsibility of Nashville Public Library is to serve the citizens of Davidson County by providing a broad choice of materials to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs. Materials are selected to aid individuals, groups and organizations in the effort to attain practical solutions to daily problems, and to enrich the quality of life for all community members.

Budget and space limitations, as well as local needs, preclude the Library from duplicating the specialized and comprehensive collections that exist elsewhere in Davidson County. Access to these collections is provided through cooperative networking, interlibrary loan, and direct referral. All outlets of the Nashville Public Library system are designed to provide access on an equal basis to the collections of both the Nashville Public Library and the Metro Nashville Public School system. Emphasis is placed on shared access and ease of use through the online catalog and the Limitless Libraries program of school delivery.
**Scope of the Main Library**

The Main Library serves the Davidson County community as a whole, in addition to serving as a resource for the twenty branch libraries. The size and scope of its collection attracts users from surrounding areas as well as the rest of the state, but the main purpose is to serve Nashville citizens and employees. As an urban library, the Main Library places major emphasis on the provision of information. It offers a strong reference collection that supports an extensive and in-depth reference service. A broad choice of circulating print and non-print materials is selected to accommodate the diversity of tastes, reading levels, languages and interests of users of all ages. The Main Library aims at providing a comprehensive collection of materials relating to the Civil Rights Movement, Nashville history, Genealogy, and local author collections. The Main Library also builds upon existing strengths in the arts. Scholarly and highly technical or specialized materials are not acquired, but are made available through other libraries with strong collections, through our Interlibrary Loan department.

**Scope of the Branch Libraries**

The twenty branch libraries serve specific neighborhoods in the City. The interests and needs of the actual and potential users of the branch are continually evaluated so that each library has a collection reflecting the community that it serves. While each branch serves basic reference needs of its neighborhood with a core of reference materials, it does not duplicate the in-depth sources or special collections of the Main and other area libraries. Branch collections are designed to serve the current, high interest needs of library patrons.

**Responsibility for Selection**

The authority and responsibility for the selection of library materials rests ultimately with the Library Director. Under his/her direction, selection is delegated to professional collection development library staff. All staff members and the general public are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration.

**Selection Criteria**

All materials, whether purchased or donated, are considered in terms of the criteria listed below. An item need not meet all of these standards in order to be added to the collection.

- Contribution to the diversity and scope of the collection
- Contemporary significance
- Relevance to the needs and interests of the public
- Popular appeal
- Physical format
- Quality of production
- Receipt or nomination for awards
- Reputation or significance of one of the creators of the work
- Available space
- Published evaluations or reviews
- Impact on materials expenditure plan
- Accessibility of material
- Accuracy and timeliness
- Relevance of format and content to the intended audience
- Effectiveness and suitability of format in communicating the content

It is the responsibility of NPL staff, acting under the authority and direction of the Library Director, to select and discard library materials. These decisions are made within the limitations of available space and funding, and within the scope of a written collection development plan. Materials will be selected based upon their value as a whole. Selection presumes liberty of thought and intellectual freedom within the bounds of reason and law.
Suggestions for Purchase

Nashville Public Library strongly encourages input from the Nashville community concerning the collection. A suggestion for purchase procedure enables Nashville citizens to request that a particular item or subject be purchased by NPL. All suggestions for purchase are subject to the same selection criteria as other materials and are not automatically added to the collection. It is the Library's intent that suggestions for purchase be used to help NPL in developing collections which serve the interests and needs of the community. You can make a material suggestion online.

Requests for Reconsideration

Persons from the Nashville community wishing to recommend the removal or reclassification of a particular item in the NPL collection may submit a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form. The request will be reviewed by the Library Director and staff, bearing in mind the Library's mission statement and the selection criteria of this collection development policy. After evaluating journal reviews and other materials submitted by the patron and the staff, the Library Director, or the Collection Development Manager as his designee, will respond within 30 days of receiving the formal request.

Independently Published Material

Nashville Public Library is often asked to include items in our libraries that are written and/or published independently. This can include materials that are self-published/produced or items published through a vanity press company. NPL looks for material with regional connections and collection relevance that will appeal to a wide audience. The best way to bring an item to the Library’s attention is through reviews. Review sources that specialize in independently published material include the following:

- Foreword
- Small Press Review
- Independent Publisher

A positive review in one or more of the library review journals, such as Library Journal, School Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, Publisher's Weekly or in the Sunday edition of the local daily paper will give an independently published book an improved chance for selection by Nashville Public Library.

Information regarding the material should be sent to the NPL's Collection Development Department. The following information should be included:

- A brief summary of the material
- Any professional reviews
- Intended audience
- Author background and contact information
- Publisher information
- Item description (price, ISBN, date of publication)
- Distributor(s)
- OCLC World Cat Record

Preview copies will be treated as a donation and their disposition will be covered under our Gifts and Donations Policy.

New or Emerging Formats

NPL develops collections that include a comprehensive range of formats utilizing the unique capabilities and advantages of alternative, new and evolving technologies in delivering information and expressing creativity and ideas. Before adding new formats, the following criteria should be considered:

- Impact on equipment, staff, storage, and space
- Demand for format in community
- Durability of format for library use
- Technical quality of production or reproduction
- Compliance with industry standards and specifications
- Availability of adequate startup and continuing funding
• Capability for networked distribution, download and printing
• Suitability to be circulated or housed in a sturdy, safe and convenient manner
• Availability of technical support and staff training
• Accessibility of material
• Ease of use by customers and staff
• Ownership of product

As new formats emerge, steps will be taken to phase-out duplicated, obsolete mediums. These include discontinuation of ordering new or replacement copies, redistribution, and removal of existing collection from within the system. The time frame and need for implementation of each of these steps will vary based on customer demand for product (as demonstrated by circulation statistics and customer requests), affordability, and availability of product from vendors.

Gifts and Donations
NPL welcomes gifts of books and other materials. The Library reserves the right to keep, discard, sell, or make other appropriate disposal of any books or materials that are donated as determined by its mission and needs.

Staff members review all donated materials for potential addition to the Library’s collections. Materials may also be used to help the Friends of the Library hold successful book sales. Funds raised at these sales support the Children’s Summer Reading Program and other valuable library programs. Donated material that will be sold at Friends’ book sales is not covered under this policy. Friends’ donation instructions are located on the NPL’s website under Friends of the Library.

Nashville Public Library accepts gifts at any of our facilities in Davidson County. Customers are encouraged to call ahead. Books donated in boxes are most helpful. Metro Archives and Special Collections staff follow separate guidelines for accepting donations.

What will be considered for addition to the collection:
• Material in like-new condition
• Books
• Music CDs
• DVDs
• MP3 audiobooks
• Audiobooks on CD (unabridged only)

What is not accepted for the collection:
• Material in poor condition (has stains, water damage, smell, writing, etc.)
• Formats not currently being collected by the Library, such as VHS, audio cassettes, LPs, etc.
• Textbooks (except current Metro school textbooks)
• Magazines & Newspapers as well as magazine gift subscriptions

Collection Maintenance
In addition to acquiring new materials, it is important to remove from the existing collection those items no longer deemed useful or relevant. This policy provides authority for the systematic and regular evaluation of the existing collection and subsequent withdrawal of worn, obsolete or infrequently used materials and supports the public’s right of access to an appealing and relevant collection.

Library Management Staff systematically review the collection with the goal of maintaining the quality and vitality of library resources. This process of collection analysis incorporates the use of output measures, circulation reports, and other statistical information for continuous collection evaluation.
Weeding Evaluation Criteria
Weeding in this context is defined as the process of evaluating a book to determine if it will be retained, relocated, or replaced. Selection of materials for discarding is based on the CREW method.

- Continuous
- Review
- Evaluation
- Weeding

This system uses the acronym, MUSTIE, to help evaluate an item for withdrawal:

- Misleading and/or factually inaccurate
- Ugly (worn out beyond mending or rebinding)
- Superseded by a new edition or a better source
- Trivial (of no discernible literary or scientific merit)
- Irrelevant to the needs and interest of your community
- Elsewhere (the material may be easily borrowed from another source)

Replacement Criteria
While NPL attempts to have copies of standard and important works, it does not automatically replace all materials withdrawn. The same criteria that apply to original selection also apply to replacements. The need for replacement is based on:

- The number of duplicate copies
- Existence of adequate coverage of the subject in the collection
- Demand for the specific title or subject area
- Availability of material

Removal of Withdrawn Material
Materials that no longer meet the stated objectives of the Library will be withdrawn from the system. NPL reserves the right to determine how materials are removed.

Duplication of Material
Multiple copies of materials are purchased in response to user demand as evidenced by number of reserves, anticipated popularity, repeated requests and monitoring of the collection. For popular fiction and non-fiction titles, NPL maintains a holds ratio (i.e. for every 5 holds on a title, another copy is purchased) as allowed by budget constraints.

MAIN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS
Albert Hadley Interior Design Collection
Albert Hadley (1920-2012), a native of Nashville, was a renowned interior designer whose clients included Vice President Albert Gore and Tipper Gore, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Diane Sawyer, and the Astor and Getty families. The Albert Hadley Interior Design Collection includes over 700 titles from his personal and professional book collection, as well as sketches and ephemera.

Annex Collections
The Annex of Nashville Public Library, housed near the delivery area of the Main Library, is an active, constantly maintained print and audio-visual collection with several functions. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- High demand fiction and nonfiction titles from which holds are pulled first in order to quickly deliver material to customers and lessen their wait time for material.
- Preservation of certain historical and award-winning collections not in general circulation.
Bookclub-In-A-Bag Collection
To assist and promote book clubs, Nashville Public Library has created a collection of ready-to-go book club kits. These kits contain ten copies of a book title, discussion questions for the book, an author biography, tips for starting a successful book club and circulation rules for using the kit. They are packaged in a canvas tote bag for easy conveyance. The book bags contain titles of interest to children, young adults and adults and are available in several genres: Southern fiction, Sci-Fi, Romance, African American fiction, Mysteries, Contemporary Christian fiction - a little something for everyone. The bags are not renewable but have an extended loan period of six weeks to allow time for groups to distribute, read, discuss and return the books.

Children's Historical Collection
The Children's Historical Collection are items of historical or local significance to children’s literature, including first editions and award winning books, that are determined to be unique and/or out of print. These items are housed in the Annex and are non-circulating but can be requested at the Children's Reference Desk and used in the library.

C.I.E.C. Collection
The Children’s International Education Collection is a circulating collection of books that is housed in the Children’s Department of the Main Library and consists of items that reflect the culture, customs, and beliefs of the country from which they came. Items are added to the collection based on their cultural relevance to the country they represent, with particular emphasis placed on items published in the native language(s) of the county or bilingual material. The circulation procedures for these items are the same as other circulating materials.

Curriculum Kits
Curriculum Kits are collections of 20-30 items on one topic. The Kits are located in the Main Annex division, and are housed in sturdy, covered plastic bins. Each Kit is geared at specific grade levels (i.e. grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12) with materials chosen that correspond to curriculum. Each Kit may include a mix of print books, videos, audiobook CDs, preloaded MP3 audiobooks, flashcards, maps or laminated sheets. The Kits are not renewable but have an extended loan period of four weeks. They are searchable through the online catalog and may be placed on hold.

Foundation Center Collection
In partnership with the Foundation Center, the Main Library makes available The Foundation Directory Online and Foundation Grants to Individuals Online. These resources, as well as others available through the Foundation Center Collection, provide directories and profiles of organizations which provide grants as well as information on grant seeking and grant writing.

Government Documents
The Library system provides a variety of items published by Federal, state and local governmental agencies. The Main Library is a selective depository of the United States Government publications, and is subject to the regulations governing Federal depository libraries. NPL receives approximately 20% of the documents published by the Federal government. Predominantly in electronic format, the collection includes census data, military history, NASA history, Congressional bills, United States Code, Code of Federal Regulations, National Park and historic site information, and Foreign Relations of the United States.

Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
This lending library of books, media programs, and assistive communication devices is one of the largest in a public library in the country, with over 12,750 items in the collection. It includes materials to educate the hearing public about hearing loss and deafness as well as accessible informational and entertaining materials for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Materials about deaf-blindness are also available.
Library Studies Collection
The Library Studies Collection at the Main Library houses circulating materials to support study for staff, educators and students. The collection includes resources on all aspects of library and information science, including but not limited to: collection development, management and supervision, database management, branch management, school library studies, curriculum content, marketing, programming, outreach and fundraising.

Metropolitan Government Archives
The Metropolitan Government Archives, a division of Nashville Public Library, collects and preserves the historically valuable records of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, as well as other records of historical or documentary significance reflecting the history of our city. The Archives has ongoing programs to maintain and develop its collections, and welcomes researchers to come explore its treasures. The Archives has over 5 million records dating from the 1780s to the present.

S.C.O.R.E – Small Business Collection
This reference collection supports the counseling provided by local retired executives through S.C.O.R.E. (Service Corps of Retired Executives) and contains sample business plans and other resources for starting up a small business.

Special Collections Division
As the information center for the Nashville community, the library places a high priority on acquiring comprehensive information and resources about Nashville, past and present. The library collects reference and circulating materials which reflect the county’s historical and cultural development, with special attention to its ethnic diversity and heritage.

The collection of historical Nashville newspapers on microfilm at the Main Library is the most comprehensive available in Davidson County, and is supported by research and historical materials. The library acquires exhaustive and selective material that furthers the mission to preserve and share across generations the culture and history of Nashville. It also collects maps, pamphlets, and selected ephemera of local significance. Non-print materials include films, videos, sound recordings, slides, art works, and posters.

Collections include: Digital Collection, Book Collections, Ephemera, Image Collections, Maps, Microforms, Nashville Banner Archives, Oral History, Civil Rights Collection, Veterans History Project, Periodicals and Journals, Portraits, Records and Manuscript Collections, and Biographical Files.

The Nashville Public Library does not actively seek manuscripts, collections of papers, memorabilia, or three-dimensional materials, although it does selectively accept gifts of this nature, particularly when the material relates to the City of Nashville, its official functions and its sister cities.

Special Book collections include:

Banner-Stahlman Collection
This book collection is from the Nashville Banner newspaper and also includes selected titles from the Stahlman personal book collection.

Genealogy Collection
This collection includes published family histories, family name origins, early passenger lists, coats of arms, research material for the genealogist and how-to books related to the same subject. The published family histories and records included in this collection are non-Tennessee, primarily relating to the areas from which Tennesseans came prior to settling in Tennessee, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Great Britain.
Grantham Collection
The Grantham Collection consists of 5,000 titles, including a number of his personal publications, from Dr. Dewey Grantham, History Professor Emeritus at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Grantham’s collection includes the social, cultural, economic and political history of the post-Civil War South.

Robin and Bill King Civil Rights Collection
This monograph collection with a focus on the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Middle Tennessee, and the South is located in the Civil Rights Room. Books in this collection have the location Main, Nashville Room and NCR after the call number.

Muirhead Collection
This collection was donated by Judge Jean Muirhead and includes material related to women’s civil rights and women’s issues.

Nashville Authors
The Nashville Authors Collection is made up of titles authored by residents and includes a number of different topics. Circulating copies of these titles may be available in the regular collection.

Tennesseana
This is the largest of our monograph collections and includes Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, Davidson County and Nashville local history, as well as Nashville City Directories and biographies about Tennesseans.

The Wilson Limited Editions Collection
Containing more than 800 beautifully designed and illustrated books and portfolios of featured artwork by renowned artists such as Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Jacob Lawrence, this reference collection is housed at the Main Library and is available for viewing in depth by appointment.

BRANCH & MAIN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Adult Fiction
Nashville Public Library’s fiction collection includes a wide variety of contemporary works of fiction representing all genres, international works of fiction, classics and important novels of the past. The Library makes every effort to acquire fiction which is representative of the cultural and ethnic community that it serves and to satisfy the diversity of interests and recreational needs of its users.

Adult Non-Fiction
NPL aims at acquiring materials which provide a core of basic knowledge. In addition, the Library selects, makes accessible, and promotes the use of materials which:

- address contemporary issues
- provide self-help information
- facilitate continuing education
- enhance job-related knowledge and skills
- increase knowledge of affairs of the community, the country, and the world
- support business, cultural, recreational and civic interests in the community
- nourish intellectual, aesthetic, creative and spiritual growth
- present different viewpoints on issues

Audiobooks
The audiobook collection contains compact discs, pre-loaded MP3 devices and digital sound recordings of fiction and nonfiction books, poetry and drama, language instruction, and other subjects, based on current demand. Emphasis is on acquiring unabridged works whenever possible.
Children's Collection
To encourage life-long reading habits, the children's collection provides materials in a variety of formats to satisfy and stimulate the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the children of Nashville from infancy through grade eight. The materials are selected with regard to the stages of emotional and intellectual maturity of children. The collection also provides adults with materials that relate to the well-being of children, enrich preschool and school curriculums, and aid in the study of children's literature.

Electronic Databases (Commercial)
Online computerized databases extend the collection by providing timely and versatile access to information in electronic format. Databases are used by the library staff to enhance and supplement reference service. Many of the databases contain specialized information beyond the scope of the library's print collections; others have information that does not exist in print format. Some databases duplicate print sources which are carefully evaluated for retention with consideration to cost, frequency of use, and ease of access to library users.

E-Media
Digital versions of nonfiction, fiction, periodical, reference, video, audiobooks, music, and images are all offered by Nashville Public Library. The content criteria outlined in each of those sections apply, as appropriate, to their electronic counterparts.

Large Type
The large type book collection meets the needs of an increasing number of visually impaired patrons. The major thrust of the collection is popular fiction, including mysteries, romances and westerns, along with high interest non-fiction. Large type books are purchased for the majority of locations based on demographics and demand.

Literacy Collection
The literacy collection provides written material in a variety of formats to support NPL's adult literacy efforts. It is comprised of material to support new readers as well as tutors and teachers though the Library does not collect textbooks or workbooks meant for individual use.

Lucky Day Collection
Designed to allow access to bestselling titles for casual library users without the placement of advance holds, the collection is composed of print adult and young adult books in fiction and nonfiction. These items have a limit of one checkout per library card and a shortened, fourteen day loan period in order to encourage faster turnover of material. No renewals or advance reservations online or by phone allowed. Books stay in Lucky Day status for two months before converting back to regular status.

Music
Music recordings are available at the Main Library and most of the branch libraries. Current purchases are in compact disc (CD) and digital formats because of their availability and popularity. The adult music collection consists of works by major classical and contemporary composers, as well as popular music. An emphasis is placed on acquiring recordings of musicals, folk music, jazz, and classical music. Compact discs for children include storytelling, folk and nursery songs, holiday music, and read-alongs.
Periodical Collection
NPL’s newspaper and magazine collection provides current and retrospective information aimed at meeting the recreational reading needs of the community.

The periodical collection consists of a diversity of publications in fields which are of interest to the community. It includes basic and popular reading magazines, foreign language publications, and a wide selection of business, trade, and local music industry publications. Journals which are highly technical or scholarly are generally not included in the collection. In addition to magazines, the collection includes newspapers published locally as well as from major geographical areas of interest to the community.

Back issues of magazines circulate at the branch libraries. Back issues of many titles are accessible digitally for reasons of preservation and space conservation.

Reference Collection
NPL maintains a reference collection to serve the informational needs of library users. Reference sources are characterized by their ability to provide information and to summarize, condense, or give a comprehensive overview of a topic. They remain in the library to be readily available to all citizens. Selection criteria of particular importance for reference sources are: accuracy, arrangement, ease-of-use, uniqueness of information, authority, documentation, and indexing.

Reference sources are consulted for specific items of information rather than to be read consecutively and include: bibliographies, indexes, directories, dictionaries, catalogs, statistical compendia, atlases, biographical dictionaries, and almanacs.

The reference collection at the Main Library contains standard works in areas of general reference, the humanities, social sciences, physical and biological sciences, technology, history and area studies. It maintains in-depth collections in music business and art, and Nashville and Tennessee-related information. The collection also includes rare or difficult-to-replace books in these areas of specialization.

The branch reference collections contain a core of basic ready reference materials supplemented by specific subject area resources of interest to that community. Branch staff has access to a reference hotline to obtain additional reference support and to access the more comprehensive resources at Main.

Textbooks
Through an agreement with Metro Nashville Public Schools, all NPL locations, including Main have a core collection of print textbooks covering the basic core curriculum areas. These are reference items used for homework assistance and are updated each year. We do not replace missing textbooks.

Videos
Nashville Public Library collects videos to meet the educational and recreational needs of adults and children. The collection consists of popular feature films, television movies and shows as well as documentaries, instructional and educational films and film festival selections. Formats include DVD and other digital media.

Videos of feature films include film classics, such as those named to the National Films Registry, and highly rated current films of broad family appeal or potential cultural, historical, or aesthetic significance.
**World Language Materials**

NPL maintains a collection of world language materials, aimed at meeting the recreational and many of the informational needs of the Nashville community. Resources include books, magazines, and newspapers, videos and sound recordings. These materials are primarily circulating.

The Library's collection also includes materials which aid in learning a second language. These resources include books such as grammars, dictionaries, audio CDs, databases, and videos for learning the languages most frequently studied in the community.

NPL is committed to developing and maintaining foreign language collections which meet the needs of a changing Davidson County population. Foreign language needs are assessed through such tools as US Census data, patron requests, circulation statistics and community awareness. The information gathered is used to determine the size and scope of the collection at each site. Availability of materials may impact the development of the collections.

**Young Adult Collection**

The young adult collection exists at all NPL branches and at the Main Library. These materials are intended for patrons from the age of 13 to 18 years. It is a transitional collection for the reader moving from the children's collection to the adult collection. The young adult collection consists of fiction and nonfiction books of popular and contemporary interest. Other formats include audiobooks on CD, pre-loaded MP3 devices, graphic novels, as well as digital formats such as e-books and e-audiobooks.

**BRANCH LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**Z. Alexander Looby Collection**

Zephaniah Alexander Looby (1899-1972) was a leader in Nashville society and played an important role in the Civil Rights movement in the city. The collection named in his honor is housed at the Bordeaux branch and consists of nonfiction research, studies and opinions on African-American social, economic and historic issues as well as biographies of prominent African-Americans and classic literary fiction by African-American authors.