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| <i>TITLE:</i> Collection Development |                           | <i>POLICY:</i> B-2003 |                  |
| <i>COMMITTEE:</i>                    | Governance and Nomination | <i>PASSED:</i>        | December 1, 2015 |
|                                      |                           | <i>AMENDED:</i>       | May 9, 2023      |
| <i>TOPIC:</i>                        | Library Collections       | <i>REVIEW PERIOD:</i> | Every 3 years    |

Strong library collections are fundamental to excellent library service. The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is committed to developing diverse, robust collections which anticipate and meet customer needs. EPL collections are broad in scope and variety in order to fulfill the Library’s mission.

Collection development is an ongoing process requiring professional judgment and experience to balance needs and demands with optimal use of space, staff and fiscal resources. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for collection development and ensuring EPL maintains collection development guidelines to direct staff in the selection of library materials. The CEO may delegate this responsibility to other EPL staff.

EPL is committed to upholding the value of intellectual freedom as outlined in its Intellectual Freedom Policy, therefore, EPL acquires a wide range of materials representing various points of view, including materials which may be considered controversial and/or offensive to some individuals. Selection will not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to developing collections and serving customers. Selection of an item for the library collection does not constitute endorsement by the Library of either the content or viewpoint expressed in that item. No materials are excluded from selection because they may come into the possession of a child.

Edmonton Public Library collections will:

1. Inspire the love of reading and the exploration of ideas, culture and knowledge.
2. Meet the information, entertainment and recreational needs of the community;
3. Support lifelong learning, discovery and enjoyment;
4. Meet the diverse needs and interests of the community, including representation of Canadian and local perspectives;
5. Expand understanding of the world and stimulate participation in the affairs of the community, the country, and the world;
6. Reflect various cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious and philosophical backgrounds;
7. Recognize and accommodate a range of education levels and abilities;

EPL participates in resource sharing initiatives and consortium purchasing to provide the greatest access to library materials.

The Board recognizes that this policy is carried out in compliance and with due regard for all applicable legislation.

## **Customer Requests**

Customer requests for the purchase of library materials are encouraged and reviewed by Library staff using EPL selection criteria.

## **Donations**

EPL has the discretion to accept gifts of library materials and reserves the right to decide the disposition of gifts received.

## **Deselection**

EPL continually assesses the performance of its collections so they remain current, in good physical condition and balance both immediate and long-term customer needs. Deselection is a crucial aspect of maintaining responsive, vigorous and current collections. Removal of items from the collection through active weeding is integral to this process. Decisions to remove items from the collection will not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the work and relevance to customers.

## **Reconsideration of Library Materials**

Customers who object to items in EPL's collection are asked to complete a written request for reconsideration. Decisions made in response to a *Customer Request for Reconsideration of Library Material* are communicated to the originators of the request following a formal staff review.

## **Legislative and Policy Authorities**

### **Related Board Policies**

- [Gift Acceptance, B-2013](#)
- [Intellectual Freedom, B-2012](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion Policy, B-2031](#)