

Selection Policy

With budgetary and space constraints, the Library can only acquire a limited number of the thousands of books published annually. Selection is done carefully and based upon reason rather than prejudice and judgment rather than censorship.

Responsibility for Selection

Selection is the administrative responsibility of the Director in cooperation with staff and public input. The Library Board is the final authority in determination of policy to guide the selection of materials.

Criteria

Prairie du Chien Public Library's goal is to purchase the best materials available which meet the needs of the community and in the confines of the budget.

Each resource must be considered for its value, its format, and the audience for which it is intended. No single criterion is applicable to all purchase and access decisions. Some resources may be judged primarily for their artistic merit, scholarship or value to humanity; others are chosen to satisfy the informational, recreational or educational interests of the community.

Librarians apply their judgment and experience in selecting materials according to the criteria listed below. All criteria do not apply to each item. Works of imagination are judged by different standards than are works of information and opinion. Works that present an aspect of life honestly are not necessarily excluded because of frankness of expression. Materials are judged as a whole rather than on isolated passages. In considering titles, librarians consult reviews, bibliographies and other respected evaluative sources. The Library generally purchases current best sellers, giving priority to demand rather than to reviews or other relevant criteria. The criteria include:

- suitability of physical form for Library use
- suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- present and potential relevance to local interests and needs
- appropriateness and effectiveness of medium to content
- number and nature of requests from Library users
- historical significance
- importance as a document of the times
- relation to existing collection, alternative formats, and other materials on subject
- reputation and/or significance of the author/artist and publisher/producer
- authority, competence and purpose of the author/artist
- attention of critics, reviewers and public
- comprehensiveness and depth of treatment

- objectivity
- clarity, accuracy, logic of presentation
- representation of a minority point of view
- relevance to the experiences and contributions of diverse populations
- quality of illustrations
- originality
- vitality, readability or ability to sustain interest
- effective characterization
- authenticity of historical or social setting
- value of resource in relation to cost

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 9/12