



# Collection Development Policy

Approved by: Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

Date approved: 2021-06-21

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Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) is committed to developing and maintaining a relevant, responsive, and diverse collection of both physical and digital materials. ECRL recognizes the need for a well-balanced and broad collection available in various formats in order to serve all library members, and strives to serve the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of library members at all age and literacy levels.

## Selection of Materials

The selection of materials for the library collection is central to the ability of ECRL to fulfill its mission to stimulate a love of reading and a life-long interest in learning. Selection of materials purchased for the collection is based on favourable reviews from reputable sources, publishers' catalogues, recommended lists or bibliographies, knowledge of community needs and interests, and the requests of library users. All staff members and library users may recommend material for consideration. All decisions to purchase materials are exercised within the context of the library budget.

## Suggestions for Purchase

ECRL encourages library users to suggest titles they would like added to the library collection. These suggestions will be considered if the item has been published and released in North America within 3 years of the current date, or if the item is historically, culturally, or linguistically significant to the local area.

ECRL is always seeking to improve our Mi'kmaw language, French language, and Gaelic language collections, as well as English-language titles related to the history, culture, and stories of the Mi'kmaq, Acadians, African Nova Scotians, and Gaels. We will consider purchasing items suggested by library members for these collections, even if they are older than 3 years.

Library members will have the opportunity to provide their library card number upon making a Suggestion for Purchase. If a library card number is provided, a hold will be placed on the item if purchased.

Any suggested item that is not purchased will be requested as an Interlibrary Loan on behalf of the requesting library member. If ECRL can not source the requested material via Interlibrary Loan, the requesting library user will be notified.

## Collection Maintenance

In order to have a collection that reflects the current and anticipated needs of the community, ECRL continually withdraws, or “weeds”, items from the collection, basing its decisions on a number of factors, including publishing date, frequency of circulation, community interest, out of date in respects to information or theme, and physical condition of materials. Items dealing with local history or of local interest are an exception, as are certain classics and award-winning children's books.

## Book Sales and Recycling

Withdrawn books are either recycled or sold at a local branch book sale or the annual book sale at the ECRL Regional Office. The proceeds from such sales are used for the benefit of ECRL. Books that are not sold will be recycled.

In the public interest, certain materials will not be sold in a library book sale. These materials include such items as nonfiction materials featuring outdated information, materials that are culturally inappropriate, or items that are not in good physical condition.

## Reconsideration

The presence of materials in the library does not constitute endorsement of their contents by ECRL Management or the ECRL Board. ECRL does not purchase, retain in its collections, or make accessible materials in violation of the Statutes of Nova Scotia or Canada.

ECRL is aware that some materials can be controversial and some content may offend library members. Discretion in the choice of material to be borrowed from the library or digitally accessed using one of ECRL’s digital content platforms will be left to the adult library member. Responsibility for a child or teenager’s selection and use of physical materials and digital resources lies with the parent or guardian.

ECRL subscribes to the [Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations](#).

Library users who believe a specific item to be inappropriate for the collection may contact the Director, Collections and Technology, to bring this concern to their attention. The complaint will be reviewed and a written response will be sent to the complainant.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or its related procedures please email the Director, Collections and Technology at [acampbell@ecrl.ca](mailto:acampbell@ecrl.ca).