**WPLC Collection Development Policy**

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**I. Mission & Vision**

The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) was created and is intended to provide Wisconsin residents with public library cards access to a collection of electronically published materials in a wide range of subjects and formats. It also provides a decision-making and fiscal model for public library cooperation that encourages libraries to collaborate, while exploring and implementing new information technologies and issues. This model emphasizes sharing costs as well as knowledge and resources.

**II. Purpose**

This policy acts as a guide for selectors in order to ensure comparability of collection depth and breadth between collection areas and similarity of selection criteria among selectors within the centralized collection management framework. This policy intends to assist selectors in building collections that are responsive to the community’s informational and recreational reading needs, while still meeting the mission and goals of both the WPLC and public libraries.

This policy also informs the public of the principles upon which collection development and management decisions are based. This policy describes the role of selection and management in the mission of the WPLC to serve a statewide community of library users. It defines the scope of the collection, provides a plan for continual and strategic development, and identifies strengths in the collection. It connects selection decisions and collection management to intellectual freedom principles.

**III. Collection Development**

**A. Scope of Collection**

The WPLC is funded by its member library systems, also known as Partners. Partners of the WPLC pay into the consortium and any partner library system has access to the digital collaborative collection and as such, their library card-holders are authorized users. Library system partners may choose to ask their member libraries to contribute to the WPLC payments as they deem necessary and appropriate. The community served by this collection is incredibly diverse and as such, the collection must reflect the needs, interests, and viewpoints of this large community in its entirety, taking into consideration access needs in a digital environment.

The collection is broad, current, and popular. This collection is not concerned with being completely comprehensive and some subject areas are collected in greater depth than others, as a reflection of current use and demand. The WPLC aims for a balance of popular materials and those in line with the institutional goals of public libraries. The materials chosen support general interest in a broad range of categories. This collection is intended to serve the general patron instead of the researcher. Titles selected reflect contemporary significance instead of long-term enduring value.

A variety of reading and comprehension levels are also represented in the collection, based on community need. Materials in languages other than English will be added as determined by community need and title availability. The collection also includes materials that are classified as local content either by an author, publisher or subject matter relating to Wisconsin.

Currently, the collection is comprised of e-books, digital audio books, and video. Materials are selected to support a variety of computer systems and e-reader hardware in multiple prevailing formats in order to serve the differing needs of individual users. The WPLC is not actively purchasing new video titles. As streaming video evolves and more titles are available for purchase, we will revisit adding titles to the video collection.

**B. Selection Criteria**

The following criteria are taken into consideration when selectors are choosing materials. An item need not meet all of the criteria to be selected.

* + Identified, expressed, or anticipated demand in the general community
  + Availability of titles from vendors
  + Contemporary significance, popular interest or permanent value
  + Attention of critics and reviewers
  + Prominence, authority, significance, and/or competence of author or creator
  + Timeliness and accuracy of material including new editions of existing materials.
  + Relation to existing collections, such as titles in a series.
  + Statement of challenging, original, or alternative point of view
  + Authenticity of historical, regional, or social setting
  + Suitability of subject matter for youth
  + Appropriate reading level for youth
  + Relevance to the experiences and contributions of diverse populations

Public demand for an author, title or subject is an important criterion. All requests from patrons for specific authors, titles or subjects will be considered.

Title availability is another important consideration. Given the volatile world of digital rights and publishers, it is important to note that although titles may be available for purchase to consumers from various outlets, they may not be available to WPLC patrons because some publishers do not allow public libraries to purchase digital editions of titles, and/or place embargos on new titles for a designated time period.

In addition to content and availability criteria for selection, given the digital nature of this collection, selectors must also take into consideration format factors. The following criteria will be considered.

* Affordability
* Appropriateness of format
* Illustration rendering in books for youth or in graphic novels
* Narrator’s qualifications for audio books
* Stability of content
* Titles with simultaneous use rights

As a rule, we do not purchase abridged versions of titles. Exceptions can made on a case by case basis

Selectors are encouraged to refer to the [Consortium Selector Guidelines](https://www.wplc.info/sites/wplc.info/files/WPLC%20Consortium%20Selection%20Guidelines.pdf) for additional information.

**C. Patron Recommended Materials**

Input from patrons is highly valued and therefore patrons are able to recommend for purchase up to 3 titles per month. It is important to note that due to the very large population this collection serves, the recommendation process is limited by a monthly monetary limit as well as specific criteria determined by the WPLC Collection Development Work Group such as a minimum number of recommendations required before being considered for purchase. In addition, titles must fit the criteria for selection described in this policy and should be of interest to a larger audience. The decision to add or not add patron recommended titles is at the discretion of WPLC selection committee members and is not open to appeal.

**D. Gift Policy**

Given technical and licensing limitations as they stand today, the WPLC is unable to accept gifts of personally purchased e-books. Donated money ear-marked for specific e-books or digital audio books is accepted, though items must meet the selection criteria outlined above.

No conditions may be imposed relating to any gift either before or after its acceptance by the WPLC with an understanding that donated materials are subject to the same selection, evaluation, and disposal criteria as material selected for purchase.

**E. Weeding**

Although a digital collection does not have the same space constraints as a physical collection, it is necessary to weed the digital collection occasionally to ensure usability and patron satisfaction. The digital collection will be weeded to remove obsolete formats, metered titles that are no longer available to purchase, and other titles that are no longer appropriate for the collection as the need arises. Alternate, available, and viable editions of those titles that have patrons holds will be purchased and existing holds on weeded titles will be moved to these new versions. Patrons with holds on titles that are weeded and cannot be replaced will be notified.

The WPLC Project Manager is responsible for completing this weeding process twice yearly and will notify the community of WPLC catalogers when weeding is complete so they may remove the appropriate records from their local catalogs.

**F. Advantage Collections**

As of 2017, each public library system in the WPLC is required to have an Advantage account in order to benefit from the holds reduction amount of the buying pool implemented by the WPLC Board. This provides money to each system Advantage account to be used towards high demand titles. Any materials purchased through Advantage accounts will be accessible only by patrons in those systems with the exception of those materials eligible for the Advantage Plus program. All Advantage accounts are required to participate in this program. The Advantage Plus program is a feature that allows Advantage copies that do not have holds, are not checked out, and haven’t been purchased in the previous 30 days to be shared with the consortium collection. The copies are still owned by the Advantage account and priority is placed on those local holds, but those copies will be eligible for checkout by the rest of the consortium. The purpose of Advantage collections is to allow systems to purchase additional copies of high demand titles specifically for their patrons to help abate holds. Systems with Advantage Collections are encouraged to follow the WPLC Collection Policy as well as the [Advantage Selection Guidelines.](https://www.wplc.info/sites/wplc.info/files/WPLC%20Advantage%20Selection%20Guidelines.pdf)

**IV. Intellectual Freedom**

The WPLC aims to provide a collection with information spanning a broad spectrum of opinions. The WPLC directs patrons to the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements. These principles guide the materials selection policies.

Selection decisions are based on the merit of works as they relate to the mission and goals of the WPLC and its partners. Works are selected to meet expressed and anticipated needs of the statewide community. These works are inclusive of statewide cultures and opinions, not just the opinions of a particular community. Selectors are located all across the state to ensure a fair and balanced collection. Variety and balance of opinion is sought in all collections.

The library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual, but maintains that individuals can apply their values to only themselves. Parents have the responsibility and right to guide the values of their children. An opinion represented in the collection is an expression of the libraries’ commitment to intellectual freedom and not an endorsement of a point of view or opinion.

**A. Request for Reconsideration of Policy**

Patrons wanting to communicate their concerns about materials in the WPLC digital collection, should be directed to a reconsideration form available on the WPLC website. Any requests will be directed by the WPLC Project Manager to the WPLC Chair for discussion. A recommendation for action will be made by the WPLC Chair to the WPLC Board.

**V. Review of Policy**

This policy will be revisited by the WPLC Collection Development Workgroup who will review the policy on an annual basis and recommend changes or revisions to the WPLC Steering Committee.

Policy created by Justine Burchell, December 2011

Approved by WPLC Board, Jan 2012

Policy revised July 2015 & May 2018