

Chapter 6: Collection development

The collection development policy of the Brazoria County Library System (BCLS) establishes the guidelines by which the system selects and withdraws library resources. This policy supports the ~~mission~~, values and goals of the system.

~~Mission~~, ~~v~~Values, and goals

At BCLS, collection development supports the library's ~~mission-vision~~ to ~~meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of its communities~~ ~~promote discovery, engagement and inspiration~~. The values of collection development of BCLS reflect the library as a place

- to freely explore all ideas and points of view*,
- that provides free and open access to resources for all cultural and economic backgrounds, all ages and all levels of ability, and
- that inspires and enriches lives while promoting lifelong learning and civic engagement.

The goal of collection development is to serve the diverse communities of Brazoria County with a collection that is

- relevant and ~~up-to-date~~ ~~up to date~~,
- available in multiple formats,
- in demand,
- reliable and authoritative,
- of literary merit, or
- reflective of the community.

Selection of materials

Selection refers to the decision that must be made either to add a specific item or type of resource to the collection within budget, space and availability constraints or to retain material already in the collection. Selection standards, including professional and commercial reviews, popular demand, and local interests, are considered by collection development specialists in selecting resources. The library provides a framework for staff and community contribution to the selection process. Specific criteria are used to select works of imagination, information and opinion[^]. The choices made to develop the collection are not necessarily a reflection of the opinions or values of the selectors, the library board or Commissioners' Court.

Collaboration

Under a variety of cooperative lending programs, including the state inter-library loan program, the library can assist patrons in obtaining resources not owned by BCLS. Resources made available through collaborative initiatives may fall outside of the selection criteria of the library system.

Content generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The library values human ingenuity, artistry, and effort more than AI-generated content. When evaluating materials created with artificial intelligence, our primary requirement is that the integrity of the work remains intact without the AI-generated content. Other criteria to be considered include, but are not limited to

- quality and accuracy
- inclusion of plagiarized content
- precision of the translation or narration

Donations

General donations of used books will be accepted by staff on behalf of the Friends of the Library. Other types of donations may include gifts of specific titles, directed donations and memorials. The library handles each instance on a case-by-case basis. Items accepted into the collection become the property of BCLS and circulate according to the use policies. For more information, see Chapter 4.

Self-Independently published works

BCLS may accept self-independently published works donated by the creator. Self-Independently published works must meet collection development criteria, including binding criteria.

Withdrawal of materials

BCLS will evaluate its collection on an ongoing basis in response to the changing nature and needs of the community. The same criteria used in the selection of materials will be considered during the withdrawal process. In order to maintain the collection in its most useful and attractive condition, the professional staff will consider for withdrawal material that is no longer in demand, superseded by a newer edition or more accurate resource, or in poor condition. Replacement of a withdrawn item is not automatic. The decision to replace will be based on the selection policy.

Disposal of library materials

Library material purchased with Brazoria County funds or donated to the library are the property of Brazoria County. In the disposal of withdrawn, obsolete or damaged library material, BCLS follows all local and state law.

Requests for reconsideration

If a patron has a concern about the inclusion, classification, or location of library material, a request for reconsideration of materials form is available. For a reconsideration request to be considered, the form must be completed in full, and the patron submitting it must hold a valid borrower's card. A committee consisting of library staff and members of the public will review the

details of the request. BCLS will acknowledge receipt of the request in writing within 7 days, after which the requester will receive periodic updates until the review process is complete. The library director will consider any requests to appeal the committee's decision. If necessary, a further appeal will be considered by the library board. An item will be evaluated for reconsideration only once in a 36-month period.

*BCLS library incorporates, as part of this policy, the principles contained in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

^Collection development selection criteria include, but are not limited to the following:

- representation of an important movement, genre, trend, or national culture
- artistic presentation and experimentation
- sustained interest
- entertainment value
- representation of challenging points of view
- accuracy