

COLLECTION STRATEGY STATEMENT

Purpose

- The Collection Strategy Statement reflects the diverse needs of the Byron community and the library's strategic plan to facilitate engagement, learning, and stewardship.
- The library believes that collections are part of the broader content of a library: its experiences, spaces, materials, and collaborations. We seek to respond to our community's needs and aspirations through this content.
- Through our collections – in all available formats – we work to facilitate equitable experiences for engagement, education, and inspiration. It is our intention that collections – as curated content – have measurable impact on the community.

Principles

- The library advocates for broad and meaningful participation in the library, including the sustained use of materials. It does not promote all of the ideas found in its collections or the discussions those ideas may inspire but provides the spaces and opportunities for those ideas and discussions. · The library upholds the American Library Association's Freedom to View, Freedom to Read, and Library Bill of Rights. The following statements from the Library Bill of Rights pertain specifically to materials and information.
 - I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
 - II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
 - III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- The library protects the right of the individual to access information, even when the content may be controversial or unacceptable to others. Privacy and confidentiality are key tenets.
- The library recognizes and respects intellectual property rights, and follows existing copyright laws.
- The library supports open access as defined by the American Library Association. "Open access" refers to materials made publicly and freely available via digital repositories and archives, or research made available via peer-reviewed, open-access journals.

- We are committed to resource sharing at local and state levels as demonstrated by our membership and participation in Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) and PrairieCat, Find More Illinois and

WorldShare Interlibrary Loan. Our membership in consortia demonstrates our beliefs that engagement, supportive learning, and responsible stewardship are collaborative endeavors.

- We are committed to being good stewards of the community's tax dollars and community assets.

Scope

The library develops a meaningful, evidence-based collection that is positioned to meet the needs of the community and supports equity, diversity, and inclusion. Evidence-based methods include traditional metrics (circulation, usage analytics such as downloads and website visits, and usage ratios); qualitative metrics (formal data such as customer feedback, program and services evaluations, and library-wide institutional assessment); and less formal inputs via conversations with the community and professional insights in the course of community engagement. Tools include collection analysis software to monitor collections according to use and provisioning; an ILS (Integrated Library System) to make meaning from the use and circulation of materials; and other software to assist required reporting for the Secretary of State's Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR). All of these methods are ways the library identifies and monitors the impact of materials in the community. We recognize and celebrate that Byron is unique, with broad and diverse interests. We curate specific cultural and heritage collections that reflect the unique history and characteristics of Byron. We strive to be "format neutral", defining physical and digital collections and content as materials to which we facilitate access for and with our community.

Selection

Selection is curation at its core. Material selection criteria are informed by community interests and aspirations; equity, diversity, and inclusion; national and international news and events; publishing and social trends; professional reviews and journals; and staff professional expertise. Community requests and recommendations are welcomed and are subject to the same criteria as any other material. The library does not collect textbooks, academic, or technical materials unless they are considered useful generally or supportive to the library strategic plan. The library adopts "digital curation" as an umbrella term for actions and strategies to provide stewardship of our digital assets. Digital assets include electronic resources, software and hardware, and devices. Digital curation takes into account the lifespan of the item, the product, and the product version to maintain currency, relevance, and sustainability.

As stewards of content, we carefully consider materials relative to cost, space, maintenance, safety, and customer interest. We ask such questions as: "Does the item have proven or potential interest to our community? Does it meet known or potential demand? Has it earned the attention of critics, reviewers, and the public to an extent that has created that demand? Are there similar materials already in the collection? To what extent are the materials available elsewhere in the community and library consortium? Can we anticipate, based on our ongoing conversations and engagement, those items and experiences that delight and inspire our community members?" Selection means identifying – and measuring – the impact of collections in the community.

Deselection

To maintain relevant collections and content in all formats, the library must continuously evaluate and deselect materials. Criteria for withdrawing items include, but are not limited to: declining interest, poor condition, unnecessary duplication, or inaccurate or outdated information. Deselected materials may be donated to non-profit organizations, educational institutions, individuals, or discarded. These decisions are made to align with the library's strategic priorities of engagement, learning, and stewardship and final decisions are the responsibility of the Director.

Gifts and Donations

The library welcomes gifts and donations of materials or money for purchase of items, equipment, or digital content for the library collection. Donations are subject to the library selection and deselection criteria.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials, Programs, Exhibits, or Displays

Any Byron community member has the right to request reconsideration of a library material, program, exhibit, or display.

To make a request, please complete and submit a written request to the Director.

The Director, with other appropriate staff, will review the material, program, exhibit, or display in question. The Executive Director will then make a decision and send a response to the person who requested the reconsideration, stating the reasons for the decision.

If the individual is not satisfied with the decision, a written appeal may be submitted to the Board of Library Trustees. The decision of the board is final.

Adopted May 12, 2021

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