

Library Materials Selection Policy

September 10, 2026

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY

In accordance with its mission, the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL) assumes the responsibility of providing materials for its community for the following reasons:

- a. To provide materials for recreation, education, and information that will enrich and support the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the children, youth, and adults for whom they are selected.
- b. To provide materials for children, youth, and adults that will stimulate growth in literary appreciation, in aesthetic values, in ethical standards, and in factual knowledge.
- c. To provide a background of information which will enable children, youth, and adults, as citizens, to make intelligent choices.
- d. To provide materials in the areas of opposing viewpoints and controversy, representing all sides of these areas, that as citizens we may develop logical, critical thinking, and evaluation skills.
- e. To provide materials, which are representative of many different religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and which demonstrate their contribution to our American heritage.
- f. As the largest library in the area, the Library assumes the responsibility of collecting certain subjects in depth, as specified in the Library's collection development statements. These subjects may be modified at the Library's sole discretion.

The Library supports intellectual freedom and has adopted the following statements as policy: The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, The American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement, and The Freedom to View Statement of the American Film and Video Association.

2. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Librarians apply their judgment and experience in selecting materials according to the criteria listed below. Selection is an inclusive process, in which librarians seek materials providing a broad range of viewpoints and subject matter.

The selection of a given material does not mean that such material is endorsed or promoted by the librarian. All criteria do not apply to the selection of each item, but each item, regardless of format, should be evaluated in terms of the criteria listed below. Selection, duplication, replacement and withdrawal of library materials shall be influenced by:

- EVPL's mission and vision statements
- Anticipated or demonstrated popular demand
- Customer requests
- Current and historical significance
- The attention of critics and reviews
- Diversity in the collection, including representation of a minority point of view and relevance to the experiences and contributions of diverse populations
- Available space
- Available budget
- Value of the resource in relation to its cost
- Usefulness and appeal

- Appropriateness of format, content, and style (including size & binding)
- Reputation, popularity, or significance of the author, publisher, performer, producer, or the material itself
- Relation to other material in the collection
- Availability through Interlibrary Loan, the Internet, or in other area libraries
- Accessibility online
- Currency and accuracy of the material
- Anticipated long-term use
- Professional judgment

3. STATEMENT ABOUT MATERIALS CREATED USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

With the continued rise in use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in print, video, and audio material creation, EVPL has added this section to address additions and submissions to our collection that are the result of the use of generative or assistive AI technologies.

Materials may include but are not limited to: digital voice readers, print materials with text or images generated by AI, or video created using AI. Both generative and assistive technologies are considered AI by EVPL.

AI and Library Collection Development

Materials created either partially or wholly using Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be added to the EVPL collection through traditional library collection development processes if they meet the criteria in Section 2 of this policy.

AI and Author Submissions/Donations to the Library

Materials created either partially or wholly using Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be submitted to the EVPL collections department for review to be considered for addition to the EVPL collection. Such material will be reviewed by qualified library staff to see if it fulfills the criteria in Section 2.

EVPL reserves the right to request information from the creator about the nature of content and illustrations contained in materials submitted to the library (with regard to the possible use of AI) when it is unclear whether content or illustrations have been created using AI.

AI-generated and assisted material and content will be given increased scrutiny regarding quality and accuracy due to known limitations of AI. EVPL reserves the right to exclude material from its collection that, in its sole judgment, does not meet selection criteria.

Whenever possible, materials created using AI technologies will be identified in the MARC (catalog) record in the library online catalog.

4. STATEMENT ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A SPECIFIC TITLE IN THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

- Once a title has been accepted as qualifying under the selection policies and rules of EVPL, it will not be removed at the request of those who disagree with it unless it can be shown to be in violation of these policies.
- An individual who desires to have a title removed from the Library shall file a Library Resource Reconsideration Request Form. The Director of Collections will review the title for compliance with the Library's policies and may enlist the help of other staff in reviewing the title for compliance. The Director of Collections shall send the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) a copy of the form. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the form, the Director of Collections or the selector shall communicate the Library's decision in writing to the individual who filed the form.

5. SUGGESTIONS FOR PURCHASE

Library customers may recommend items for purchase by using the EVPL webpage “Suggest a Title” link. EVPL welcomes your suggestions and gives them serious consideration. However, due to cost considerations, library staff are unable to notify customers about decisions made regarding specific titles. Customers are encouraged to check the catalog periodically or make an Interlibrary Loan request to obtain the materials, particularly older titles.

Consulting with a librarian prior to making a purchase suggestion is always recommended. Librarians may be able to help you find either the exact title that you want or related titles that may be of interest.

6. GIFT MATERIALS

EVPL welcomes all donations of gift materials if they are timely and in good physical condition. The Library accepts all gift materials without condition as to their retention or treatment. EVPL will utilize gift materials as it deems appropriate.

7. REPLACEMENT OF MATERIALS

Damaged, lost, or weeded materials should be reviewed to see if they can be replaced by the same title (if it continues to be of value), or by a later edition of the same title, or by better titles on the same subject.

8. WEEDING OF MATERIALS

EVPL collections should be kept current by weeding materials that no longer meet the selection criteria listed above.