

Collection Development Policy

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Purpose

To provide general principles and criteria for developing and maintaining collections, both physical and digital, for the East Gwillimbury Public Library (EGPL) that support the Library's Strategic Plan and Mission Statement. This policy also addresses the local history collection, donations, local authors, suggestions for purchase, and requests for reconsideration of library materials.

Scope

The primary aim of selection is to provide customers with a broad selection of material to meet their education, recreational, cultural and information needs. Given these various roles of the collection, the Library's primary goal is to focus on popular and best-selling materials in all formats.

All Library customers have access to the collection through interbranch loan and through regular exchange of materials between branches. The size of a branch collection, and the formats of material in the collection, will vary based on community needs, available resources, hours of operation, and available space.

The Library strives to develop diverse and inclusive collections that reflect community interest and demographics, as addressed in the Library's Diversity & Inclusion Policy.

Responsibility for Selection and Deselection of Materials

The East Gwillimbury Public Library Board (the "Library Board") assumes ultimate responsibility for the collection and for implementation of the Collection Development Policy.

The Library Board delegates this responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who may in turn delegate it to qualified Library staff. The CEO is also responsible for ensuring that the collection is properly maintained and organized and that effective collection control systems are in place.

Principles of Selection

1. Intellectual Freedom

The Library Board endorses the Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual (as amended in 2020), which is attached as Appendix A, and the Canadian Federation of Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom (as amended in 2019), which is attached as Appendix B. The Library Board believes in the freedom of the individual and in the right and obligation of parents to develop, interpret, and enforce their own code of acceptable conduct within their own households.

2. Selection Criteria

To build collections of merit and significance, materials must be measured by objective guidelines. Clearly, however, an item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable. When judging the quality of materials, several standards and combinations of standards may be used, as some materials may be judged primarily on artistic merit while others are considered on scholarship, their value as human documents, or their ability to satisfy the recreational, learning, and entertainment needs of the community.

The Library makes efforts to select titles in diverse voices and/or that explore themes of diversity and inclusion. Topics include but are not limited to the following: ethnicity, Indigenous experience, religion, gender/sexual orientation, and various abilities including cognitive, physical, emotional, and social.

Materials that are prohibited under Canadian law will automatically be excluded from the Library's collections.

3. Balance

The primary aim of selection is to establish a balanced collection which adequately represents various points of view on a subject for a diverse population. Library collections will strive to reflect our community's diversity without endorsing any viewpoint.

The Library Board recognizes that some materials are controversial and that a given item may offend some customers. Selection of materials will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval by any sector of the community, but solely on an evaluation of literary or artistic merit, authenticity of the material, honesty of presentation, use to the community, and the other criteria set out in this policy. In the case of controversial issues, an effort is made to see that all points of view are represented.

The Library Board does not advocate particular beliefs or points of view. The presence of an item in the Library does not signify an endorsement of the ideas it contains. The Library Board's position is that people have the right to reject for themselves material of which they do not approve, but that they do not have the right to restrict the freedom of others.

4. Access to Collections

The Library provides physical and digital access to collections except to protect an item from damage or theft. Customers of all ages will have access to all collections, with some exceptions outlined below or by law. When children are accessing the collection, it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to oversee use of the collection. Please note:

- Responsibility for the reading and viewing activities of children and young adults rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection of materials for the collection will not be restricted by the possibility that children or young adults may obtain materials that their parents consider inappropriate.
- Customers are asked to use special care when accessing our Local History collections.
- The library may control use of any collection material in order to protect items deemed susceptible to theft or damage by users, or to ensure the widest possible use of materials by library customers.
- Generally, only permanent adult card holders may items from the Library of Things collection. In cases where customers under 18 borrow items from the Library of Things collection, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure the safe use and return of such items.

5. Considerations in Selection of Material

The selection of materials is based on the professional judgement of library staff. Materials are selected according to the needs and interests of the community, access to other library resources, and budget. Library staff responsible for collection development will consider the following general points when making purchasing decisions:

- Customer Interest
- Suitability for meeting the needs of the community or appeal to the interests of the community
- Customer suggestions
- Popular demands, popularity of author, series, book, or subject matter, and current trends

Quality:

- Artistic excellence, literary merit, technical quality, or quality of presentation
- Reputation, skill, and competence of the originator of the work
- Accuracy, authority, and objectivity
- Clarity, accuracy, and logic of presentation
- Comments by reviewers or critics
- Originality of thought

Subject Matter:

- Balance of viewpoints in the collection (challenging, extreme, or minority points of view may be represented though the quantity may be limited)
- Permanent value
- Unique value as it contributes to social issues of current interest
- Relation to existing collections and other material on the subject
- Representation of Canadian and or local perspective
- Suitability of subject, style, and reading level for the intended audience

Suitability:

- Budget and space considerations
- Suitability of physical format for library use and circulation

- Access to materials from other libraries, on the Internet, through digital resources, or from other publicly accessible resources
- Physical limitations of the buildings

Selection Guidelines for digital resources also include:

- ease of access and use
- accessibility
- hardware and network requirements
- integration with existing systems
- comparison of content with other resources and formats
- licensing requirements
- budget
- staff and customer training

Some or all of the above criteria may be taken into consideration during the selection process for all materials, whether donated or purchased. Items may not need to meet all of these criteria to be selected for purchase; selection may be based on demand alone.

6. Suggestions for Purchase

The Library encourages users to make suggestions to develop our collections. Suggestions are reviewed according to the Collection Development Policy.

7. Format

The selection criteria set out in this policy will be applied to selection and deselection of all Library materials, regardless of format. The content of material, rather than format, will determine its appropriateness for the collection.

The selection of material in a new format may result in the Library's decision to retire specific items or material formats from its existing collections in order to accommodate trends in user demands and/or changes in technology.

Formats may be removed or discontinued from the collection if they become outdated and/or unused by the community.

Special Collections

The Library continually develops its special collections to create responsive and creative collections that serve the community. Special collections include but are not limited to the following:

1. Canadian Materials

The Library Board recognizes its responsibility to make Canadian materials available and therefore endeavors to develop a collection that includes works by significant national and local authors, artists, filmmakers, producers, and composers.

2. Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis Materials

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, with consideration of the Ninety-Four Calls to Action, and Call to Action 69, in which Library and Archives Canada [and by extension Libraries] are called upon to:

- i. Fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joint-Orientlicher Peoples*, as related to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in residential schools.
- ii. Ensure that its record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public
- iii. Commit more resources to its public education material and programming on residential schools,
- iv. the Library mindfully collects materials related to Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis cultures and peoples in available formats. The library's collection will include titles about, with an emphasis on titles by Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis communities.

3. Diverse and Inclusive Collections

East Gwillimbury is proud to be a fast developing and diverse community. In order to represent our community, the Library will provide access to information and materials on a wide variety of subjects, from a variety of perspectives, including selection of materials by diverse authors and

creators. This includes seeking content created by and representative of marginalized and underrepresented groups, including, but not limited to, Indigenous peoples, peoples of colour, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, persons with disabilities, and those of diverse faiths.

4. French & Multilingual Language Materials

The Library recognizes the need to provide information in both of Canada's official languages. The Library currently maintains collections of adult and juvenile French language materials.

The Library will also attempt to meet the needs of customers requiring materials in languages other than English or French through its multilingual collections.

Purchase of such materials will be balanced against budget considerations, community demand, and the overall needs of the community. Census figures on home language and mother tongue for the Town of East Gwillimbury will be used as a guide when purchasing French and multilingual materials for the collection. The Library will supplement its French and multilingual collections by participating in the interlibrary loan network as needed.

5. Government Documents

The Library purchases some government publications based on the importance of the publication, its usefulness to the community, and public interest. Some municipal and regional government publications are also collected, but the Library does not attempt to maintain complete archives of publications for any government level.

Governments publish most items only in electronic format, for distribution on the Internet. The Library provides access to these publications through the public internet workstations that are located in both branches.

6. Literacy Materials

The Library strives to assist members of the community who wish to increase their English literacy competency. A collection of literacy materials is maintained to meet the needs of independent learners, new readers, ELL students, and tutors.

7. Textbooks

The Library does not proactively select textbooks used in schools, colleges, or universities, except when they provide the best coverage of a subject and are also useful to the general public. A book will neither be included nor excluded solely on the basis that it is a textbook. When appropriate, referrals may be made to the collections of local educational institution libraries.

8. Technology

The Library purchases loanable technology to support digital literacy, to address the digital divide, and to provide access to resources that may otherwise be difficult for customers to acquire.

9. Specialty Kits

The Library circulates specialty kits to support the educational and recreational interests of the community. Kits include multiple items that loan out as a single unit.

10. Cultural Passes

When possible, the Library partners with local and external organizations to circulate specialty items or passes that provide access to local or cultural sites. The Library is subject to the terms of use agreement made by the lending organization.

11. Self-Published Materials

The Library may consider self-published materials by local authors. Self-published materials will be held to the same standards as traditionally published materials, as outlined above.

12. Library of Things

In order to meet the needs of the community, the library may purchase special item collections. These collections may include sporting equipment, musical instruments, home improvement items, and other items the community may need. These items will be subject to specific lending rules.

Local History

1. Summary of Collection

As part of its mandate to celebrate East Gwillimbury's heritage, the Library collects materials concerning the history of East Gwillimbury. The Library does not attempt to maintain an all-inclusive or archival collection of local history materials, nor does it carry out a comprehensive program of restoration or conservation of rare local history materials.

Items in the collection may include:

- Works and primary source material documenting local history and genealogy
- Local research in various formats
- Memorabilia and clippings
- Oral histories
- Cemetery records
- Photographs and negatives, and copies of photographs
- Monographs
- Newspapers and other local publications
- Posters, brochures, pamphlets, and event program
- Personal papers, including correspondence
- Maps
- Information in electronic or digital format, when appropriate

The local history collection is non-circulating. Duplicate copies of some material may be acquired for the circulating collection.

2. Criteria for Selection of Local History Materials

Selection will follow the general principals outlined in the Collection Development Policy, with additional specific criteria:

- i. Geographic coverage: The Library will collect material pertaining to the history of East Gwillimbury and its surrounding areas if it relates to East Gwillimbury

- ii. Time period: Material will be collected dating from the earliest period possible to the present time.
- iii. Subjects: All subjects pertaining to history and genealogy will be collected, including materials which contribute to knowledge of social, civic, religious, economic and cultural life, past and present.
- iv. Format: The Library will collect print and non-print material, (either originals or reproductions), including books, diaries, newsletters, bulletins, reports, speeches, photographs, scrapbooks, cemetery records, census information, municipal records, works by local authors or publishers, pamphlets, local newspapers, magazines, maps, atlases, personal manuscripts and business or institutional archives, video recordings, microfilm, sound recordings, databases, digital collections, and pertinent memorabilia. Works set in the area may be included.

Not collected are items best displayed in a museum or items that need to be repaired or kept in a controlled climate to discourage disintegration or aging.

3. Local History Loans & Preservation

- i. These materials must stay in the Library at all times and are not subject to interlibrary loan. Customers may copy items in the collection in accordance with the *Copyright Act of Canada (R.S.C., 1985, c. C-42)* in such a manner that the item(s) will not be damaged in the process. The reference staff will make this determination.
- ii. These materials may be loaned to other institutions for display purposes with the approval of the CEO. Such requests must be made in writing and will require documentation.
- iii. Original items requiring professional archival conservation may be copied for use by the Library, and then offered to a professionally-run archive in Ontario.
- iv. The Library will accept the loan of appropriate material for the purposes of obtaining copies to be added to the collection and for exhibits, with permission of the owner. A receipt form

and loan agreement (see Appendix D) will be prepared including a list of the materials, their owner designated value, and the parameters of the loan period. The form will be signed by both the owner and a designated library staff member. See also *Art Exhibit and Display Policy*.

4. Digitization

When applicable, the Library follows best practices in digitization standards to support digital access to local history materials. We support open access with regard to any digitization initiatives while respecting the terms of donor agreements, copyright, and applicable law and legislation.

5. Local History Partners

The Library will endeavor to partner with other organizations and interested parties to ensure East Gwillimbury history reaches the widest possible audience for the purposes of discovery and community engagement.

Donations

The Library accepts donations of books and other materials in good condition but reserves the right to refuse any donation based on content or volume, in consideration of staff time needed to process donations.

The Library will consider accepting gifts of significant historical value to East Gwillimbury as far as it fits within the Collection Development Policy. Gifts are reviewed by staff before being accepted. Tax receipts may be requested for items over \$50.00 that are added to the library collection.

The Library retains exclusive ownership of all donated materials, and no condition may be imposed by the donor relating to any item after its acceptance by the Library. Donated materials may be discarded, donated, or sold.

Cash donations and bequests for the purchase of materials may be made to the Library. The donor may request that such funds be used for the development of specific collections, but the Library reserves the right to select materials that it deems appropriate in accordance with criteria set out in this policy.

Local Authors

The Library accepts donations of books and other materials by local authors. Consideration for adding the material to the Library collection is at the sole discretion of the Library and will be evaluated based on the Selection Criteria outlined in the Collection Development Policy. The Library retains exclusive ownership of all donated materials, and no condition may be imposed by the donor relating to any item after its acceptance by the Library.

The Library will consider purchasing items by local authors, provided it contains an ISBN number and is available to purchase through the Library's book vendor. Consideration for adding the material to the Library collection is at the sole discretion of the Library and will be evaluated based on the Selection Criteria outlined in the Collection Development Policy.

Collection Maintenance

To maintain a high-quality and active collection, the following materials will be withdrawn from the collection:

- Materials that no longer meet the selection criteria set out in this policy
- Materials that are outdated
- Materials which are no longer of interest to the community
- Materials in overstocked collections
- Damaged or worn material

Collection maintenance procedures will include special considerations for unique items of value to the community.

When the author or publisher has issue with their created or produced work, the Library will review the work and its place in the EGPL collection considering community characteristics, professional opinion, local trends, and demand in alignment with the principles addressed in the Collection Development Policy.

In order to protect and maintain the collection, East Gwillimbury Public Library works to prevent, contain, and eliminate any known cases of bed bugs and bed bug eggs in the Library and its

materials. Branches will be tested for bed bugs regularly. The Library will hire only officially recognized pest control services.

External Resources

1. Interlibrary Loan

EGPL uses Interlibrary Loans as a supplementary service to its existing collections. Customers with a valid EGPL card may request materials from other libraries (provincially and nationally) to provide materials EGPL does not own.

2. Shared Resources

Opportunities to access external resources via consortia/pools will be considered and selection/addition of items will be in accordance with the criteria of this policy.

The Library aims to enhance the information services offered by schools and other organizations within the Town of East Gwillimbury. Customers will be referred to other community resources as needed.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

The Library recognizes the right of local cardholder to make a complaint to the Library about the inclusion of material in the collection. Requests for reconsideration of items in the collection should be submitted in person to the Library for review and appropriate action on the form called "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" (Appendix C). East Gwillimbury Public Library supports the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and have established policies, procedures, and practices which adhere to the accessibility standards of the AODA. Should you require accommodation to submit a request for reconsideration of items, please notify the Library. The Library will respond to requests formally in writing.

The following will not limit an item from being included or excluded from the collection:

- Race, religion, nationality or political views of an author
- Brazen or coarse language
- Controversial content

- Endorsement or disapproval of groups or persons
- Type of language spoken or written

The Library abides by all levels of law, thus it does not purchase items prohibited by the Criminal Code of Canada.

The majority of the Library's digital content is provided and selected by third-party vendors to which the Library subscribes, rather than by Library staff. The Library is unable to reconsider digital materials but may share requests for reconsideration with third-party vendors and take these requests into consideration when evaluating the services of these vendors.

Appendix A:

Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual

The Ontario Library Association and its divisions are committed to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Ontario Libraries have the important responsibility to facilitate expressions of knowledge, creativity, ideas, and opinion, even when viewed as unconventional or unpopular.

The Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following principles for libraries:

1. Equitable access to library service to the public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality.
2. Intellectual freedom requires freedom to critically examine and create other ideas, opinions, views, and philosophy of life, other than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional, uncommon or unpopular.
3. The free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen, view, and create is fundamental to such free traffic.
4. Library governance ensures that the principles of intellectual freedom and expression of thought are upheld.

Library Service, Collections and Resources:

1. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, and other materials including the provision of access to electronic sources of information and access to the internet. Materials are not excluded from library collections based on race, place of birth, origin, ethnic origin, ethnicity, citizenship, age, creed, disability, family structure, sex, and sexual orientation.
2. It is part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate, censor or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view, listen or participate by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.

Library Programming, Events, and Space Bookings

1. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and expression by implementing it consistently when hosting programs and events within the public space of the library including rented public space by individuals and community organizations.
2. Libraries create welcoming community spaces where community members are free from discrimination and may engage in peaceful assembly. Libraries may cancel or deny permits to individuals or organizations when speech or displays are used in a way that is unlawful.

Applicable legislation:

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication”.
- Criminal Code: Section 63 pertains to Unlawful Assemblies and Riots. Section 297 pertains to defamatory libel. Section 318 pertains to hate propaganda.
- Ontario Human Rights Code: Sub-section 13 pertains to infringing on freedom from discrimination.

Revision approved at the OLA AGM, January 30, 2020

Appendix B:

Canadian Federation of Library Associations Statement on Intellectual Freedom

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

Approved by CLA Executive Council: June 27, 1974

Amended by CLA November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; and September 27, 2015

CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016; Reviewed April 12, 2019

Appendix C: EGPL Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form

Please complete form and return to library staff.

Date: _____ Library Card Number: _____

Request initiated by (Name): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Are you making this request on behalf of a group? If so, please identify the group:

Identify the material in question (e.g. Title, author, edition/version, etc.)

Have you reviewed the entire item? Yes No

If not, which parts have you reviewed? _____

What are your concerns? Please be specific: _____

What do you suggest the library do about this item?

Have you read the attached Collection Development Policy?

Do you wish to be informed of our decision? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Freedom of Information: Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, chapter M.56, to be used in the management and administration of library services.

STAFF USE ONLY Received by: _____ Date: _____

Appendix D: Donation of Local History Materials Agreement

Received from Name (print): _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The following objects are deposited as a donation to the East Gwillimbury Public Library subject to the East Gwillimbury Public Library's discretion.

Description of Owner's Objects Deposited as a Donation:

Donation Agreement Conditions

1. The Library retains exclusive ownership of all donated materials, and no condition may be imposed by the donor relating to any item after its acceptance by the Library. Donated materials may be discarded, donated, or sold.

Signature of Donor

I hereby acknowledge that I/We have reviewed the above agreement, understand its terms, and agree to be bound by the said terms.

Date signed: _____ Signature of Lender: _____

Library Acknowledgement

The East Gwillimbury Public Library Board gratefully receives the objects listed above for the purpose of obtaining donated copies to be added to the collection

Signature of Authorized Library Staff: _____

Freedom of Information: Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, chapter M.56, to be used in the management and administration of library services.