

## MEREDITH LIBRARY COLLECTION POLICY

The Meredith Public Library's mission is to be the cultural heart of Meredith; a gathering place where community members can acquire and share knowledge.

### Purpose

The Meredith Public Library (*The Library*) respects freedom of information for its users and adheres to the principles expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association (please visit [ala.org](http://ala.org) for more information). This includes the commitment for all individuals to have open access to ideas and information, encouraging exploration and learning and promoting a culture of inclusion. Equal service is provided to all Library users; children and adults are equally free to use the entire Library and to borrow all materials in the circulating collection. Children nine and under must have appropriate supervision.

### Selection Policy

Library materials are selected by members of the staff after consulting professional review media, searching best seller and awards lists, and by reviewing the needs of the community. Staff will consult circulation and collection utilization reports to determine areas of the collection that might need attention.

Final responsibility for the purchase of materials resides with the Library Director. Any individual may express their objections to any Library materials by completing a "Request for Reconsideration" form and following the reconsideration procedure.

The Library is a member of the New Hampshire Downloadable Books Consortium. The Consortium has its own Collection Development Policy accessed at: <https://nhsl.libguides.com/nhdb#s-lg-box-29603368>

### Guiding Principles of Selection

When selecting material (books – new and donated, video games, digital purchases, children, youth and adult collections), the following standards will be considered:

- Author's reputation and competency
- Clarity and accuracy of information and/or presentation
- Usefulness to the Library
- General interest of Patrons
- Timely and pertinent nature of material
- Current political and social significance
- Representative of diverse issues
- Appeal of material for specific audiences
- Budgetary constraints
- Condition of donated books
- Availability at other libraries
- Artistic, literary, scholarly, historic, and/or scientific merit
- Support of educational needs and curriculum
- Relevant to community needs and interest

### Collection Maintenance

Library materials are continuously assessed within the context of the full collection, as well as for their continuing relevance to library users. Deselection is performed by knowledgeable Library staff to ensure the vitality, size and scope of the whole collection and using the following criteria:

- Damage or poor condition
- Infrequent use and lack of demand
- No longer accurate
- No longer relevant to the needs and interests of the community
- Materials are in a format that is no longer used
- Availability elsewhere including other libraries and online

### Library Endorsement of Content

Selection of an item for the Library collection does not constitute an endorsement by the Library of either the content or viewpoint expressed in that item.

Approved by the Meredith Public Library Board of Trustees July 8, 2008

Revised : January 14, 2020, July 11, 2023