

Alamosa Public Library
300 Hunt Ave.
Alamosa, CO 81101

Collection Development

Collection development will be consistent with and supportive of the mission statement and overall objectives of Alamosa Public Library in an effort to meet the recreational, informational, and cultural needs of patrons in the city and county of Alamosa. Decisions made in the selection process, whether to purchase, retain, or discard, are based on standard library principles for building and maintaining a collection.

Goals

Goal I: The Library provides high-demand, high-interest materials of a popular nature in a variety of formats to meet the entertainment and recreational needs of the communities.

Goal II: The Library provides reference materials and services that answer the informational needs of the communities, or that provides direction to additional sources of information.

Goal III: The Library provides materials and services that enable community members of all ages to pursue practical and/or intellectual self-directed learning independent of the formal educational process.

Goal IV: The Library collects, preserves, and provides access to a variety of types of materials that are by and/or about Alamosa County or the San Luis Valley and its citizens in both a current and historic context.

Goal V: The Library evaluates current services and makes plans for new services that will meet the community's needs now and in the future.

Selection Philosophy

For budgetary reasons we can acquire only a limited number of the thousands of books published annually. We are forced to select carefully. Our selection is based upon principle rather than personal opinion, reason rather than prejudice, and judgment rather than censorship.

In a world in which change is so rapid and persistent, the Library's obligations extend beyond meeting present conditions. The Library must also strive to anticipate future needs of the community. Books have always been, and will continue to be, a proper concern of the Library, but ever-greater amounts of information are now being contained in other forms. As research continues in the field of communication, and as the community changes and develops, the Library must be a media center, acquiring appropriate materials, regardless of form, and integrating each into its total services.

Responsibility for Selection

The Board of Trustees of the Alamosa Public Library determines the Collection Development Policy. The responsibility for administering this policy rests with the Director and Library Manager. All staff members and the general public are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration. Generally, the Director, Library Manager, and the Library Technician (cataloger) select most of the Adult Collection and the Children's Librarian selects materials for the Easy, Juvenile, and Young Adult collections. The Library Manager makes major reference selections. Selections are made based on book reviews from such publications as *Ingram's Advance*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and *The New York Times Book Review*.

Acquisitions Guidelines

Each resource must be considered for its value, its format, and the audience for which it is intended. No single criterion is applicable to all purchase and access decisions. Some resources may be judged primarily for their artistic merit, scholarship, or value to humanity while others are chosen to satisfy the informational, recreational, or educational interests of the communities.

Librarians apply their judgment and experience in selecting materials according to the criteria listed below. All criteria do not apply to each item. Works of imagination are judged by different standards than are works of information and opinion. Works that present an aspect of life honestly are not necessarily excluded because of frankness of expression. Materials are judged as a whole rather than on isolated passages. In considering individual titles in the selection process, librarians consult reviews, bibliographies, and other evaluative sources. However, the library generally purchases most current best sellers, giving higher priority to demand rather than to reviews or other relevant criteria. All materials,

whether purchased or donated, are considered in terms of the criteria listed below:

- suitability of physical form for library use;
- suitability of subject and style for intended audience;
- present and potential relevance to local interests and needs;
- appropriateness and effectiveness of medium to content;
- number and nature of requests from the library users;
- historical significance;
- importance as a document of the times;
- relation to existing collection, alternative formats, and other material on the subject;
- reputation and/or significance of the author/artist and publisher/producer;
- authority, competence, and purpose of the author/artist;
- attention of critics, reviewers, and the public;
- comprehensiveness and depth of treatment;
- objectivity;
- clarity, accuracy, logic of presentation, and/or ease of use;
- representation of a minority point of view;
- relevance to the experiences and contributions of diverse populations;
- artistic presentation and experimentation;
- quality of illustrations;
- originality;
- vitality, readability, or ability to sustain interest;
- effective characterization;
- authenticity of historical or social setting;
- value of resource in relation to its cost;
- cost and availability;
- relationship to existing materials in collection;
- relationship to materials in other area libraries.

Duplication of Materials

Multiple copies of materials are purchased in response to user demand as evidenced by number of reserves, anticipated popularity, repeated requests, and monitoring of the collection.

Replacing Materials

Replacement of withdrawn materials is not automatic. The decision to replace is influenced by:

- Availability of copies in the system
- Popular interest
- Adequacy of coverage in the subject area
- Significance in subject area
- Cost and availability

Suggestions for Purchase

The library strongly encourages input from the Alamosa community concerning the collection. A suggestion for purchase procedure enables Alamosa citizens to request that a particular item or subject be purchased by the library. All suggestions for purchase are subject to the same selection criteria as other materials and are not automatically added to the collection. It is the Library's intent that suggestions for purchase be used to help in developing collections which serve the interests and needs of the community.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees
1-26-2010