

# Meridian Library District – Collection Development Policy

The Collection Development Policy of the Meridian Library District supports the general mission and Strategic Plan adopted by the MLD Board of Trustees, the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read Statement.\*

All acquisitions, before being purchased or accepted as gifts, are evaluated in terms of the following criteria and in the context of economic and space considerations. An item will not necessarily be judged against all criteria, but against those appropriate and applicable to it. These same standards determine the replacement, duplication, and withdrawal of materials.

## **A. The Library will:**

- Provide a diverse and inclusive collection that contains content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences.
- Provide a collection that anticipates the needs and numbers of potential users
- Consider public interest of item, both specific and general, as expressed through requests, suggestions, and use to develop the collection
- Consider the availability of the same, or similar, materials in other libraries or agencies
- Consider the need for all subjects covered and viewpoints expressed
- Consider the effect that subjects and viewpoints selected have on developing a balanced collection
- Consider the appropriateness to scope of the collection as it is developed
- Consider the unique nature of branch locations in developing their collections
- Consider the unique nature of digital materials in developing their collections
- Accept only donations that are outright gifts\*\*

## **B. Selectors will consider these characteristics when selecting:**

- Literary or stylistic quality
- Content created by and representative of marginalized and underrepresented groups
- Reputations, qualifications, and significance of author, producer, or publisher
- Accuracy, currency, timeliness, and validity
- Attention of critics, reviewers, awards and public
- Resources from self-published, independent, small, and local producers
- Physical quality and effectiveness of format and appropriateness of format to subject
- Cost, as measured against competing materials on the same subject
- Resources in formats that meet the needs of users with disabilities
- Availability of discounts and efficiency in vendors used for purchasing
- Suitability for intended audience
- Availability of subscriptions and standing orders for popular materials, reference and nonfiction items published or released annually

*\*As adopted by the Council of the American Library Association in 1953 with amendments in 1972, 1991, 2000, and 2004*

*\*\*Items received as gifts will need to meet Collection Development Policy criteria before adding to MLD's collection - items that do not meet the criteria will be donated to the Friends of the Meridian Library for sale*

## **C. Reconsideration of Materials:**

Pursuant to Title 33, Chapter 27 of the Idaho Code, the Board of Trustees has among its powers the authority to establish policies for the governance of the library. The responsibility for selection of library materials rests with the library staff as assigned through the Library Director. While someone may find a particular item offensive, selection of materials will not be based upon any anticipated

*Approved by the Meridian Library District Board of Trustees on May 14, 2013  
Revised December 21, 2022*

# Meridian Library District – Collection Development Policy

approval or disapproval, but rather on the merits of the material and its value to the collection. Removing library material solely on the basis of its content or references without context to the whole may amount to censorship in violation of the First Amendment.

The use of library materials by patrons is an individual matter. Responsibility for children's and teen's use of library materials rests with their parents or legal guardians. Meridian Library staff are available to assist parents or legal guardians in using tools to inform their decisions on what to check out. The library does not act *in loco parentis* for unsupervised minors.

Meridian Library District is a member of the Lynx Library Consortium, sharing and receiving materials from the other member libraries. Requests for reconsideration are only accepted from Meridian Library District residents for Meridian Library District owned materials.

A patron residing within the Meridian Library District boundary can object to any material by doing so in writing to the Director using the form below. In reviewing the objection, the Director shall consider each work as a whole, and individual passages will not be treated out of context. The Director will also consider the literary merit of works recognized as classics, even though classic works may contain words or sentiments which, today, are unacceptable. No materials shall be excluded from the library's collection solely because of coarse language or implicit or explicit treatment of certain situations, if a reasonably accurate picture of human experience is portrayed, if the work is deemed a significant artistic endeavor, or if the work meets the criteria outlined in Sections A and B of this policy. Once a completed, signed form is received by the Library Director, the thoughtful, deliberative process for reconsideration of the library materials identified by the library patron will begin. The patron will be notified in writing of the decision within 120 days of receipt of a completed form. Items that have been challenged within the last 24 calendar months will not be reconsidered again.

## **D. Appeals Process:**

If the patron does not agree with the Director's determination, then the patron can appeal that determination to the Board in writing detailing where they believe the Director and assigned staff did not follow the Collection Development guidelines using the form below. The Board will review the appeal solely on the merit of whether there is clear and convincing evidence that the Director's determination was not based upon substantial evidence or support as guided by the Collection Development policy. The decision of the Board is final. The Board will provide written notice of its decision to the patron.

The Director and Board reserve the right to compile multiple challenges to the same item and administer them collectively.

# Meridian Library District – Collection Development Policy

## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

**On a First Amendment principle**, the Meridian Library does not age-restrict or censor material and strives to provide a variety of opinions and items. When a patron wishes to challenge an item in the collection, the process is as follows:

- Patrons must make their request in writing by filling out and signing a Request for Reconsideration Form. Requests for reconsideration are only accepted from Meridian Library District residents for Meridian Library District owned materials.
- Library staff will research and consider the item in question as a complete work.
- The decision will be reported to the patron in writing by the Library Director.
- Patrons may appeal the decision in writing to the Library Board of Trustees within 30 days of the written response.

### Information to be completed:

Date of complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Card Barcode Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### For this complaint, I

Represent myself

OR

Represent the following organization/group: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form I affirm that I am a Meridian resident, that I am making a formal reconsideration request to the Meridian Library District in regards to an item owned by the District and available for checkout. I understand that my request will receive full attention and that I will need to follow the aforementioned steps.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of requestor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of staff person receiving complaint

***Continued on the back***

# Meridian Library District – Collection Development Policy

## Material to be Reconsidered:

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author, composer, producer, artist, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work? If not, what pages or section?
2. What in the material do you object to? Please be specific, cite pages or sections.
3. How does this material not meet the selection criteria identified in Section B of the Collection Development Policy?
4. What good or valuable features do you find in the material?
5. What do you believe is the theme of this work?
6. What do you feel might be the result of using this material?
7. Have you read any review of the material? If yes, specify.
8. Do you think this material would be more appropriate for a different age group?  
Please explain:
9. What would you like the library to do about this material?
10. Can you recommend other material that would convey as valuable a picture and/or perspective of the subject treated? If yes, please specify: