

Coburn Free Library Collection Selection Criteria

Budget allocation is based on public demand, usage statistics, relevance to the collections, and available resources. Budget and space limitations require a focus on materials that appeal to a broad range of users.

As a part of the Finger Lakes Library System, many materials are available from other libraries via interlibrary loan. Both the local collection and the system collection are considered when selecting materials.

Acquisition guidelines: (Applied to purchases, recommendations, and donations. An item need not meet all of these standards in order to be added to the collection. Other factors may also be considered.)

- Popular interest topics
- Demand or anticipated demand
- Relevance to the interest and needs of the community.
- Literary classics
- Attention of critics/ reviewers and award nominees/winners
 - 3 Apples Winners (The award for kids by kids in NY – listed on NYLA page)
 - NYT Bestsellers
 - National Book Awards (nationalbook.org)
 - ALA Awards (Caldecott, Newbery, Seuss-Geisel)
 - YALSA (Best Fiction for Young Adults)
 - Pulitzer Prize Winners
- Significance, timeliness, or permanence of subject matter
- Representation of diverse authors and points of view
- Clarity, accuracy, and presentation
- Local emphasis/local authors
- Literary merit and contribution to the field of knowledge
- Relationship to the existing collection and the collections of system libraries
- Reputation or qualifications of the author, creator, or publisher
- Cost proportionate to expected use and ability to collect on item loss
- Availability of material for purchase
- Appropriateness for the intended audience
- Availability of content through other formats or sources
- Condition of materials
- Space and budgetary limits
- Suitability of the format for library use

Materials available in the library present a diversity of viewpoints. We provide a broad choice of materials to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of our community. Efforts are made to provide materials to help individuals, groups, and organizations attain practical solutions to daily problems and to enrich the quality of life for all community members.

Responsibility for Selection: Ultimate responsibility for the selection of library materials rests with the Library Director. All staff members and the general public are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration.