

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Marin County Free Library uses a patron-driven collection development model based on a shared collection and system level selection.

As such, the Library will give highest priority to those materials most wanted by our patrons, focusing on circulating materials for our diverse community in a variety of formats. System-wide selectors will emphasize balance in the shared collection; individual branch collections will vary with local demand. Print reference collections will be reduced in favor of circulating and online resources.

The collection is reviewed and revised on an on-going basis to meet contemporary needs. The amount of use an item receives in the present outweighs the possibility that someone may use it someday. Current usefulness is the determining factor in how long materials are kept. The exceptions are the Anne T. Kent California Room and branch local history collections. The collection is neither archival nor research oriented; the Library supplements the collection by borrowing nationwide from other libraries as necessary to meet patron demands.

The Way We Do Business:

- We act as good stewards of the public's tax dollars.
- We operate as one system; unity provides value. The system-wide approach to a shared collection frees staff to concentrate on service and results in collections that are maximized around the needs of patrons.
- We focus outwards toward target audiences rather than inwards toward collections.
- We are a data-driven organization. Selectors will routinely gather statistics and community input to determine user characteristics, expectations and needs and will apply the latest tools and innovations to our collection development practices.
- We provide access to, rather than ownership of, additional materials by using cooperative agreements with other libraries.

Primary Collection Goals:

- *Materials for Lifelong Learning and Life Skills* – literature, information and answers to questions related to work, school, cultural, civic and personal life.
- *Materials that Facilitate Early Literacy and Cultivate Young Readers* – to develop reading, listening, viewing and thinking skills and to support parents' efforts to foster their children's interests, knowledge and development.
- *High Interest Materials for All Ages* – current high-interest materials in a variety of formats.