

Nick Westbrook
9/28/14
Collection Development
Policy Comparison

The library I chose was the Eugene Public Library in Eugene, Oregon (a public library in the area of the United States that I'd like to live one day). On their policy page on their website (<http://www.eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?nid=2450>), the Eugene Public Library outlines their policy very clearly, covering the collection procedure, general principles and policies on gifts and ways for patrons to challenge or request items. This was one of the most complete policies I've found online.

The library policy begins by outlining the general principles of the policy: protecting Intellectual Freedom, encouraging Diversity in the collection and enforcing the Core Values of the library (life long learning, responsive customer service and empowerment, organizational and professional ethics). The policy outlines the criteria for selecting materials, as well as who has the responsibility of selecting materials. It also lists the sources for selection that the library uses when considering new material. It also specifically outlines what patrons can do if they want to suggest, donate and gift books into the library circulation. It also presents conditions for withdrawing materials and giving gifts/donations for the library. The priorities listed in *Collection Management Basics* (Evans and Saponaro, pg. 74) appear to be covered by the policy listed online, but there are a few sections of the policy on the webpage that require some attention to better

I have a few concerns with the policy. Specifically, the 'Purchase Suggestion' needs to be more specific. It doesn't outline whom to address the suggestions to. In the case of this library, the 'responsibility' is set to 'designated library staff'. I'm assuming this means that the staff has a section, but it isn't clearly outlined who to discuss specific

item request for purchase. It should say who to contact for suggestions, so that the email doesn't get bounced around so many times it gets lost in the collection of emails that the library gets on a daily basis. There is a section about withdrawing items as well, but it leaves something to be desired. It covers the standard reasons (poor condition, lack of relevance, usage, etc.) but it doesn't outline reasons that people would normally bring forward to request to remove an item. In my experience, an individual wanting to remove an item has a personal reason such as language, ideas presented or religious/political bias (even witchcraft, in some cases). I once had a patron come to the reference desk and ask for a book to be removed because 'it belonged in a porn store!' The book in question was a biography of Chelsea Lately, so it was an understandable objection, but we felt it was still something that should have been included in the collection. This starts to fall under censorship laws. Briefly, the policy mentions something about intellectual freedom, but I have concerns that individuals looking to withdraw an item for personal reasons would not know a) where to bring these complaints and b) that they're complaints would be a violation of their freedom.