



## Youth and the Library

The Library Center of the Ozarks makes a broad selection of library materials and information available for everyone, including minors. **Parents and/or guardians are responsible for what their child reads, and for materials checked out on their library card.**

The Library has special areas for children and teens with materials that appeal to various ages and interests. The Library also offers reading challenges, Storytimes, and other special programs for young people that often reference our collection. Programs such as these help kids learn to enjoy libraries and use them for their information and entertainment needs.

## How We Decide What to Buy

Selection of Library material for children is delegated to the Library staff using the [Collection Development Policy](#) adopted by the Board of Trustees. Patrons can make suggestions using the online form in the catalog or by asking Library staff.

Material selection is based on awareness of community interests and concerns, national and international issues and events, publishing trends, societal trends, and the professional judgment of selectors regarding the material's value to the Library's collection. Selectors can consider many criteria when reaching a decision to purchase materials. Following are examples of criteria considered and items reviewed in the material selection process:

- Reviews from professional journals, popular magazines, and other media.
- Expressed or anticipated patron demand.
- Timeliness or permanence of the material.
- Quality, accuracy, or authenticity of materials.
- Inclusion of materials in a special bibliography or index.
- Scope and depth of our present collection or the availability of materials at other libraries in the area.
- Reputation or authority of the author or publisher.
- Format and price of material as well as space available to house it.

Sources used for selection include but are not limited to:

- Published reviews from authoritative review publications

- Publisher or vendor catalogs
- Professional or trade bibliographies
- Requests from schools or other partners
- Requests from individual customers

Materials selected from any source, including donations and customer requests, are subject to the same selection criteria.

Questions regarding Library Policies, including this policy, may be directed to the Library Director.

### **How Items are Placed in the Library**

Before placing materials in the children's or teen sections, the Library has reviewed them and based on information from publishers and reviewers, has decided they are appropriate for those collections.

Placement of print materials in the Library is generally determined by publisher's grade and age reading recommendations.

The children's areas of the library contain materials recommended for birth to age 11, or birth to grade 6. Teen areas contain materials recommended for ages 12 to 17, or grade 7 to 12. All other areas are intended for use by all ages and contain materials recommended for ages 18 and up. Areas of the Library such as entryways or service desks are considered common areas and may contain displays of materials for children and adults.

These designations are only recommendations; parents and caregivers are best qualified to determine which items their own children and teens can check out.

While materials are separated for ease of use, patrons are not limited to these recommendations. All patrons are welcome to browse and check out any materials in the collection. **A minor's use of the library is the sole responsibility of their parent or guardian.**

### **How You Can Have a Say**

From time to time, a library cardholder or resident of Branson-Hollister sub-district may be concerned about a particular book, or other material in the Library. If they want Library staff to reconsider material that is in the collection, a [Request for Reconsideration of Library Material](#) form may be requested. This form should be filled out and returned to a staff member or mailed to the Library Director. The Director will respond directly to the petitioner or refer the recommendation to an ad hoc staff review committee. The Committee will review the recommendation and prepare a report which will determine whether the materials in question meet the selection criteria of the Library. The Director will utilize the report in responding to the petitioner. The process will be completed within

30 days of receipt of the request. If there are concerns about this decision, a written appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees.

The item in question will not be removed from the shelf during the reconsideration process, and an item is only evaluated for reconsideration once in a twelve-month period. The Library is not required to reconsider Library materials that have been the subject of a previous request for reconsideration.

### **Programs and Events**

All programs and events sponsored or held by the Library shall have an age-appropriate designation listed. Questions regarding Library programs may be directed to the Library Director or his/her designee.

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