



Excerpts from the Spartanburg County Public Libraries Material Selection Policy

General Criteria

The following general criteria apply to all Spartanburg County Library collections.

- At least one favorable review in a reputable selection guide is generally required before an item is purchased.
- In most cases, the SCPL will not purchase self-published material unless it is reviewed in an established source. Exceptions may be made for material of local interest.
- Suggestions for purchase of particular items, as well as donations, by members of the community are welcome but are subject to the same selection criteria.
- Abridgements are purchased on a case-by-case basis.

Criteria for Specific Collections

Fiction

- Literary merit and style
- Popular demand
- Price and physical quality
- Quality of illustrations
- Relationship to existing collection
- Social significance
- Reputation and significance of author and/or illustrator
- Reputation of publisher

Non-Fiction

- Accuracy and authenticity of factual material presented
- Quality of writing
- Popular demand
- Relation of work to existing collection
- Reputation and significance of author
- Permanent or timely value
- Price and physical quality
- Reputation of publisher
- Quality of illustrations

Children's Collection

- In selecting materials for children, the Library's objective is to make available a collection that satisfies the current and potential informational, recreational and cultural reading needs of children from pre-school age to age twelve.
- The best books available which fill an emotional need, or which serve as a stepping stone to better reading, may be selected even though they may not be of the highest literary quality.
- Materials should reflect a broad range of attitudes and characteristics.
- Content and vocabulary should be suitable to age level.

Teen Collection

- The Teen Services Association of the American Library Association (YALSA) defines Teens as persons between the ages of twelve and eighteen. In selecting materials for teens, the Library's objective is to make available a collection that satisfies the current and potential informational, recreational and cultural reading needs of teens.
- Recognition of special characteristics and reading and interest levels of the teenage years.
- Recognition that a lack of literary style should not exclude books of popular, current, and ephemeral interest.

Audiovisual Selection Policy

Audiovisual materials are selected in a variety of current formats to meet the needs of patrons of all ages.

Additional criteria to use in evaluating audiovisual materials:

- Quality of recording
- Narrator and/or performers
- Replacement availability
- Technique
- Content
- Lasting value or Timeliness
- Imagination
- Originality
- Technical quality