

City of South Perth

Youth Services Collection Development

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Library and Local History Services

'To provide innovative quality library and heritage services which support the intellectual, educational, cultural and social needs of the South Perth community'



1. Introduction and Mission

The Youth Services Department of the City of South Perth Library Service is dedicated to providing young people from birth to 18 with free access to a high-quality collection that satisfies their informational and recreational needs. The collection aims to provide materials that are current, relevant and responsive to the needs of the community; to respond to the range of social and cognitive developmental needs of all age groups within the 0-18 range; and to encourage literacy and lifelong learning. The collection also aims to address the needs of specific client groups including pre and emerging readers; teenagers; young Aboriginal peoples; young people from CaLD backgrounds and young people with disabilities.

2. Purpose

The Collection Development Policy expresses the principles by which the Youth Services Department of the Library Service will continue to improve and manage its collection. The policy aims to clarify the planning and management issues of selecting materials for collection. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine the suitability of materials used by their children.

3. Collection Maintenance

The maintenance of the collection is an ongoing activity in order to maintain the quality of the collection. The collection is evaluated using a variety of criteria including:

- Physical condition – items that are damaged or in poor condition
- Currency – items where information is out-of-date or misleading
- Circulation history – frequency of use
- Relevance – items that fit community needs
- Updated edition
- Number of copies in the collection
- Currency of format
- Trivial content
- Expected future use



- Information can easily be found elsewhere in the collection, including in online databases

4. Selection Criteria

Materials being considered for selection are examined with a number of factors in mind:

- Popularity
- Authority and competency of author/creator
- Appropriateness to interest and skills of intended users
- Relation to existing collections
- Community demand and need for the material
- Known popularity of author
- Part of a recognised series
- Style, clarity and presentation
- Quality of publication

Selection is carried out using a range of resources including bookseller suggestions and bookshop visits, reviews, publisher catalogues, and suggestions from staff and library members.

5. Exclusions

Reasons for items being excluded from the collection include:

- Poor construction, e.g. spiral bound
- Workbooks
- Sticker and activity books
- Colouring-in books

The library does not attempt to duplicate the services and materials provided by school libraries within the City. Text books and curriculum related materials are provided only where these materials also serve the general public or where they provide information not otherwise available.

6. Junior Non-Fiction

The Junior Non-Fiction collection aims to provide a current, balanced collection in all subject areas likely to be of interest, with a particular focus on subjects of enduring appeal to children, e.g. dinosaurs.



- Efforts will be made to fill any obvious or reported gaps in the coverage of the collection
- Emphasis on materials published with an Australian author, published in Australia, or with Australian content
- Aims to cater for the recreational information needs of the community rather than duplicate material held in school libraries
- Autobiographical and biographical works deemed to be of interest

7. Junior Fiction

The Junior Fiction collection aims to provide a wide range of fiction of all types catering to various reading levels and a broad range of interests.

- Include classic children's literature, works of literary merit, popular titles
- Australian authors will be well represented in the collection as well as including a range of material published overseas
- The collection will be regularly refreshed with new editions of standard and classic titles
- Where demand for particular titles is high, extra copies will be purchased in order to keep waiting lists to a minimum

8. Young Adult Fiction

The Young Adult Fiction collection aims to provide a wide range of fiction of all types to cater to the recreational and emotional needs of young people aged between 12 and 18 years in the community.

- Australian authors will be well represented in the collection as well as including a range of material published overseas
- Provide for a diverse range of interests, tastes, reading ability and level of maturity
- Titles that are current and have high appeal as well as titles that have enduring appeal
- No titles are excluded because of any particular bias against an author or subject matter

9. Early Readers



The Early Readers collection aims to support children learning to read, providing graded material on a variety of fictional and informational topics.

10. Large Print

The Large Print collection is interfiled with the Junior and Young Adult Fiction collections and aim to provide material in a format suitable for children and young adults with visual impairment who have difficulty or are unable to read ordinary print.

11. Graphic Novels and Manga

The Junior and Young Adult Graphic Novels and Manga collections aim to provide access to illustrated novels and comics as an alternative to the traditional novel, appealing to readers who are more visually oriented.

- Popular and best-selling series
- Titles recommended on websites and publisher catalogues
- Titles recommended by specialist booksellers
- Recognised franchises, authors and publishers

12. Audio Visual

The Junior Audio Visual collections are aimed at providing listening and viewing material to compliment and support the print collections. The collections also support the needs of children who have special needs.

Compact Discs

- Music aimed at children
- Recorded books by popular authors and on popular topics

DVDs and Blu-rays

- Popular children's and family movies and television programs
- Informational titles on popular topics

13. Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

The Languages Other Than English collection aims to provide access to materials on a range of community languages and bilingual materials to



support the needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) families within the community.

- Particular focus will be placed on providing picture books in community languages

14. Periodicals

The Junior and Young Adult Periodicals collections aim to meet the recreational needs of the community. They provide a current, topical collection that compliments the other areas of the collection.

Current issues are designated as "For use in Library only" while older titles are available for loan.

15. Electronic Resources

The suite of subscriptions to electronic resources aims to complement the collections in other formats.

Electronic encyclopaedias such as Britannica and World Book largely replace print non-fiction for topics that are rapidly changing, for example country data.

Electronic resources offer quicker access to current, specialised, popular and in-depth information.

16. Deaccession and Disposal

Items are deleted from the collection according to use and condition. State Library items are returned to the State Library of Western Australia as per the Exchange process. Items referred to as 'Local Stock', purchased with the library's stock budget are placed out for sale with the money collected given to charity.

