General Criteria

The selection criteria, set out in Policy 2.3, are used for all materials included in the Rockingham County Public Library collection. Additional specific criteria are listed when appropriate for different types of materials. All items selected will meet one or more of the general or specific criteria.

- Contribution to diversity or breadth of collections
- Current and anticipated needs and interests of the public
- Professional staff review, bestseller lists and patron requests

Request for Purchase Consideration

All items requested by a patron will be reviewed by the selection committee and if selected must meet several of the specific criteria, as set out in Policy 2.3, or the general criteria listed above. (Purchase Consideration form follows selection policy).

Duplication

The library gives serious consideration to the number of requests for an item as a guide for duplication. The determining factors for duplication are:

- Budgetary limitations
- Importance of the materials
- Popular demand
Young Adult Collection

The Library provides current fiction and non-fiction collections appropriate for the browsing and homework assistance needs of young adults ranging in age from approximately 12 to 18 years of age (grades 6-12).

- Appeal of genre to young adults
- Popularity of author among young adults
- Presentation at a level and in a format that will appeal to young adults
- Subject matter of interest to young adults
- Usefulness of material for homework assignments

Juvenile Collection

The juvenile collection contains general informational works, browsing items, and subject-oriented materials on topics of interest to children. Many juvenile non-fiction books will present more than one side of a question or point of view. The collection includes a variety of books from the most distinguished in Children’s literature to popular titles and new, enticing titles that will attract readers of many tastes and abilities. Popular series titles are purchased in response to patron requests.

- Appeal of author, genre, and series for children
- Appropriate reading level and interest level
- Multiple copies are not purchased
- Quality of illustrations, maps, graphics and photographs
- Subject relevance and age appropriateness of material
- Thoroughness of coverage and competence of writing style
- Usefulness of material for homework assignments

Picture Books

The easy book collection is primarily a browsing collection of non-fiction picture books and beginning readers of interest to children. These books, in which illustration is as important as text, serve to introduce children to the world of books. Each library includes a wide variety for adults to read to children and for children to look at and use as they begin to read. This collection includes concept books, wordless books, and board books as well as picture books.

- Relationship of illustration to text
- Literary quality and artistic impression
- Age appropriateness of art, text, topic
- Appeal of author or illustrations to children
Reference Materials

The reference collection consists of materials, which because of format, use, rarity or cost, are most appropriately used in the library. It provides timely and accurate information on a wide range of topics to serve the needs of a diverse public of all ages. The collection includes in-depth materials to support back-up reference services for the entire library system. Materials are acquired in book, microfilm or electronic format as appropriate and available.

- Importance of the subject matter or point of view to the collection
- Thoroughness of coverage, including index, bibliography, illustration, etc.

Periodicals

Periodicals (including newspapers) provide a source of current information not often available in book or other format. All libraries have a wide range of general interest periodicals for all ages. Both current and retrospective collections are maintained in efficient and cost-effective formats (paper, electronic and microform).