

Chapter 7 (Collection Management)

The purpose of the collection management standards is to ensure that Illinois public libraries offer a full range of materials and electronic resources that are current, accessible (cataloged/classified), and relevant to community needs. Collection management includes planning, selecting, and building of resources in all formats needed by a library's community. Based on community needs, the library collection development policy should address selection and evaluation of materials, purchase priorities, and weeding of the collection. Collection evaluation and weeding is an ongoing process where materials are reviewed by analyzing use, age, condition, timeliness, and general coverage in order to improve availability and comprehensiveness and to identify users' changing taste and needs. Of utmost importance, community members must have a means by which they can participate in the selection of materials.

The public library's mission is to provide a wide range of materials in a variety of formats, such as electronic content, and in sufficient quantity to meet the needs and interests of the community. If electronic readers are provided, they should be accessible for people with disabilities. Illinois libraries are best able to provide materials by developing a collection management program and participating in resource sharing. The keys to quality collection management and resource sharing are adequate funding and trained library staff.

Library collections can be expanded beyond the physical boundaries of the library through resource sharing, cooperative collection management, and electronic resources, such as e-books. No one library can provide from its own collection all the materials that are required to meet the needs of its patrons. All libraries can enhance their collection by participating in interlibrary loan practices and participating in and utilizing statewide electronic databases/resource offerings, such as OCLC membership and WorldCat, as well as regional library system and other consortial group purchase opportunities as outlined in the following chapter. Also, libraries can become more proactive information providers by using local funds to license electronic full-text databases of local interest. Libraries in close proximity to one another should consider forming a cooperative collection management plan. Cooperative collection plans coordinate selection and purchase of materials between libraries. Finally, libraries also can contribute to resource sharing by digitizing local materials. Local history materials are often unique and have interest that is not exclusive to the immediate local area. Since these materials are unique and irreplaceable, digitizing them allows for preservation as well as broad access and should be encouraged as a goal for library excellence.

Collection Management Standards

1. The library spends a minimum of 8 to 12 percent of its operating budget on materials for patrons. For the purposes of calculating spending on materials refer to Appendix I (Collection Management Worksheet).
2. The library has a board-approved, written collection management policy based on community needs and interests, demographic makeup, the diversity of American society, and on professional standards. The library's collection development policy shall address the following issues: materials selection; request for reconsideration of materials; handling of print donations, collection specialties and purchase priorities; and evaluation and weeding of the collection.
3. Staff responsible for collection management is professionally trained in general principles of selection and weeding as well as in their specific areas of responsibilities.
4. Staff responsible for collection management has access to a variety of review sources and selection tools including both print and web-based sources.

5. The library staff uses accepted professional techniques for collection management. Such techniques may include quantitative measures (i.e., circulation-per-capita and turnaround rates, weeding (i.e., the CREW method), user surveys, and questionnaires.
6. The library places a high priority on collection development. Although use of the collection and the size of the population are the primary factors, there may be additional factors that affect the size of the collection. Examples of these additional factors include local history, genealogy, and a linguistically diverse population.
7. The library provides access to materials in a variety of formats to ensure equal access for special population groups. Examples of some of these formats are e-books, audio books on CD or MP3, books in Braille, vetted information found online; and closed-captioned, described, or signed videos or DVDs.
8. The library strives to complement its print collection by purchasing electronic materials and make these materials available to all users through a variety of resources.
9. The library publicizes and promotes interlibrary loan to its patrons. The library develops procedures that ensure that interlibrary loan is a simple and effective way for patrons to receive materials and information after all local resources have been exhausted.
10. Library staff members are trained in and follow the policies and procedures relating to the ILLINET *Interlibrary Loan Code* and the ALA *Interlibrary Loan Code*.
 - a. The library agrees to be a responsible borrower. Before initiating an interlibrary loan request, requesting libraries should exhaust their own local resources.
 - b. Library budgets should put priority on purchasing materials that best serve their community.
 - c. Libraries should check statewide resource sharing databases such as OCLC FirstSearch before placing any requests and be responsible for copyright compliance.
 - d. The borrowing library is always responsible for items, including materials lost in transit or by the patron as specified by the ALA and ILLINET *Interlibrary Loan Codes*.

Collection Management Checklist

- The library board of trustees ensures that the library has a publicly funded budget to purchase materials. The minimum annual expenditure for materials for any size library should be a minimum of 8 to 12 percent of the operating budget.
- Library budgets should put priority on purchasing materials that best serve their community.
- The library has a written collection development policy approved by the board.
- Materials are cataloged according to standard library practices utilizing MARC 21, AACR2 Rules, Sears/LC subject headings, and RDA.
- Library collections are evaluated annually to measure the effectiveness of community use of the collection and weeded if deemed appropriate.
- The library considers forming a cooperative collection plan with other libraries in close proximity to one another.

Collection Management

- The library strives to complement its print collection by purchasing electronic materials and making them available to patrons through a variety of methods.
- The library publicizes and promotes interlibrary loan to its patrons.
- Library staff is trained in and follows policies and procedures related to the ILLINET *Interlibrary Loan Code* and the ALA *Interlibrary Loan Code*. Libraries agree to be responsible borrowers and lenders.

