

## **Collection Development Policy**

Western Allegheny Community Library (WACL) employs skilled professionals educated in Information and Library Science. These professionals purchase materials, in a variety of popular formats, to support the Library's mission, as an informational, educational, and recreational source for the needs of the community. The collection includes items that are racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse.

Patron use is the most powerful influence on WACL's collection. Circulation, patron requests, and hold levels are all regularly monitored, triggering the purchase of new items and additional copies of high demand material.

In addition to customer demand, selections are made to provide depth and diversity of viewpoints to the existing collection.

Inherent in the collection development philosophy is an appreciation for each patron and the patron's right to freedom of information. WACL provides materials to support each individual's journey, and does not place a value on one customer's needs or preferences over another's. The Library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others.

Materials for children and teenagers are intended to broaden their vision, support recreational reading, encourage and facilitate reading skills, supplement their educational needs, stimulate and widen their interests, lead to recognition and appreciation of literature and reflect diversity within our world. The reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents or guardians, who guide and oversee their own children's development.