COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN
About the Plan

This Collection Development Plan serves as a guide for the selection and retention of materials for the County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries.

It is the goal of the Library to provide a high-quality collection of books and other materials in a variety of formats and languages for all ages that is responsive to the needs and interests of the community.

Ultimate responsibility for the selection of all materials rests with the Library Director, who operates within the framework of policies and goals established by the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors and the State Education Code 19146.

2023 – 2025
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023 – 2025

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About the Libraries

San Luis Obispo County is located approximately midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The county is geographically large, covering 3,300 square miles, including collegiate San Luis Obispo to more rural areas that focus on agriculture and tourism. The current population is approximately 270,000.

A major university library and a community college library are located in the county. The county is also served by a city library in Paso Robles.

County of SLO Public Libraries is primarily funded through property taxes.
County of SLO Public Libraries is a system of 14 libraries in very different communities. Local collections vary according to library size and populations served.

All County of SLO Public Libraries cardholders have access to the website, catalog, and online digital collection that includes downloadable eBooks, audiobooks and streaming media.

Materials can be requested to be delivered to any location.
Regional Libraries
San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Atascadero

The larger regional libraries offer the most robust collections: popular, high-demand items and Spanish language collections as well as works of lasting value.

Community Libraries
Morro Bay, Los Osos, Nipomo, Cambria

The community libraries are mid-sized branches offering popular works and Spanish language collections.

Express Libraries
Creston, San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Oceano, Shell Beach, Shandon, Cayucos

Express branches offer small collections of popular materials. Some offer Spanish language items.
Our Libraries

PROVIDE FREE ACCESS FOR ALL
Programs, materials, and resources will be made available to county citizens of any age at no charge.

ARE LEADING ADVOCATES FOR READING
We support reading for cultural, educational, and recreational enrichment.

ARE TRUSTED GUIDES FOR LEARNING
We value our partnerships with educators, community agencies and families. We provide creative tools for digital literacy and lifelong learning.

REFLECT AND SERVE DIVERSE, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
We offer resources for a variety of ages, abilities, and interests; we offer our services equitably and respectfully.
Our Mission

Connecting the community to culture, creativity, and knowledge through exceptional service
Explore Digital Services
Assess customer demand for 24/7 collections.

Adapt the Library Experience
Flex our collections during changing times.

Meet Our Patrons Where They Are
Create discovery zones inside and outside of the library. Showcase diverse works in our collections.
COLLECTION VISION

ACCESSIBLE
Browsable libraries, an intuitive online catalog, and useful electronic resources that can be accessed inside or outside of the library.

MODERN
Popular items mixed with works of lasting value. A balanced collection that is inclusive, fresh, relevant, and in good condition.

FLEXIBLE
Rotating, community-driven collections. Refreshed, responsive collections at all locations. Hi-tech and low-tech resources.
Selection & Purchasing
BY PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS

Materials are selected mainly from reviews in professional journals and other industry media; examination of materials from publishers; subject knowledge and expertise of Library staff; and recommendations from the public.

We use the latest tools and technologies in our collection development practices to identify current trends in library usage.

General Selection Criteria

Community interest
Current demand
Critical reception; award-winning
Timeliness and significance of subject
Local interest (author or subject)
Relationship and importance to the entire collection
Availability of material elsewhere
Authoritativeness
Suitability in style and subject for the intended audience
Format available
Date of publication
Budget, cost, and space considerations
Literary merit
Formats Collected

- Books
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Large print
- Books on CD
- DVDs/Blu-Rays
- Book/audio kits
- Electronic resources/online databases
- eBooks/digital magazines
- eAudio books
- Downloadable/streaming media
- Learning tablets
- Spanish language materials

Items Not Collected

- Textbooks and curriculum-related works
- Scholarly materials that are carried by academic/special libraries
- Items with removable media such as memorabilia, stickers, or toys
- Puzzlebooks or workbooks
- Materials that are lacking evaluative information
- Items that will not withstand regular library use
Collection Maintenance

**RELEVANCE**

Obsolete items, with outdated, inaccurate information are removed and recycled.

**CONDITION**

Damaged, broken, stained, or defaced items are removed and recycled.

**NUMBER & USAGE**

Extra copies or items with lack of customer demand may be donated to other agencies or sold by Friends of the Library groups.

*The circulating collection is not archival. It is reviewed and revised on an ongoing basis by professional librarians to meet contemporary needs and collection goals.*
BENEFITS OF REGULAR COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

A Better Library Experience
Easy-to-browse shelves and appealing displays are inviting and convenient.

Clean Libraries
Our communities deserve tidy, fresh libraries and collections.

Up-to-date Information
You can trust us for relevant and timely titles.

More to Explore
New items shine in our discovery zones.
Special Collections and Services

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

FAMILY READING KITS

BOOK CLUB KITS

ADULT LEARNER COLLECTION

LIBRARY BY MAIL

BRANCH OUT MOBILE LIBRARIES

LIBRARY OF THINGS

LAUNCHPADS & READ-ALONGS
## Donations

**We accept gifts of new or gently used books, recent magazines, and some audio-visual items.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Formats</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tr>
<td>Only items in excellent condition will be added to the Library’s collections.</td>
<td>Please see our selection guidelines for more information about formats accepted.</td>
<td>Our priority is items purchased with County funds. Donations may experience processing delays.</td>
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We reserve the right to decide which items will be added to the Library collection and which will be given to our Friends groups.

Donated materials become the property of the County of SLO Public Libraries and cannot be returned to the donor.

Receipts for donations indicate the type and number of items donated. The donor is responsible for determining the monetary value of donated items.
Local Authors

DONATED BOOKS WITH LOCAL INTEREST MAY BE ADDED TO THE COLLECTION

LOCAL CONNECTION
Authors must be SLO county residents, or the book must demonstrate a strong local interest. Must be appropriate for a popular collection.

APPROPRIATE FORMAT
Loose leaf, stapled, or spiral bound books will not be accepted for the collection.

POPULARITY
Titles may be considered for purchase if published reviews are available. Items will rotate out of the collection if they do not check out regularly.

Materials that are donated become the property of the County of SLO Public Libraries and cannot be returned to the donor.
Requests for Reconsideration

In the event that a library user questions a title that has been selected for the collection, Library staff reviews the item for inclusion in the collection in light of the Library's overall objectives, Collection Development Plan, Library Bill of Rights, and American Library Association guidelines on intellectual freedom.