



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN



County of SLO  
Public Libraries

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## 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.



*San Luis Obispo County is 3,300 square miles*

## About the Libraries

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.



*Delivering books to the Shandon Library; Driving the Branch Out library van in South County; Staff Picks at the Atascadero Library*

## About the Libraries

### 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.



*SLO Library, Cayucos Library, Nipomo Library*



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# Our Libraries

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## **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.



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## Our Mission

*Connecting the community  
to culture, creativity,  
and knowledge through  
exceptional service*

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# Goals 2023 - 2025

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## 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.



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# 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.

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## 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



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## 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

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## 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 with an NC-17 Rating  
Items that will not withstand regular library use

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# 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.*



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# 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.



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# 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](#)



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# Donations

WE ACCEPT GIFTS OF NEW OR GENTLY USED BOOKS, RECENT MAGAZINES, AND SOME AUDIO-VISUAL ITEMS

## CONDITION

Only items in excellent condition will be added to the Library's collections.

## FORMATS

Please see our selection guidelines for more information about formats accepted.

## PRIORITY

Our priority is items purchased with County funds. Donations may experience processing delays.

*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.*

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# 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.*

# Suggestions for Purchase

SUGGESTED TITLES ARE REVIEWED BY  
THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT TEAM

We acknowledge the important role of the community in collection development by inviting suggestions for purchase. Library cardholders may submit suggestions by [signing into their account](#) or through staff.

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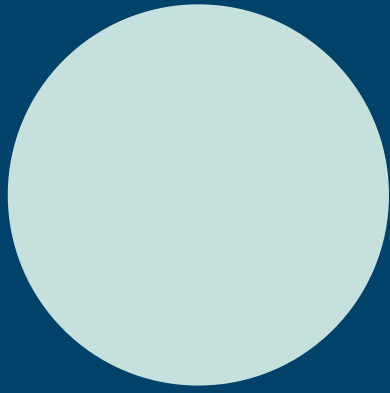
# Requests for Reconsideration

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](#).



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# Contact Us

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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