

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Community Assessment:

The James Kennedy Public Library is located in the city of Dyersville, Iowa. According to information from data.census.gov and the American Community Survey, the population of Dyersville is 4,477. Fifty-one point two percent (51.2%) of the population is female and 48.8% is male. The median age is 44.8 with 77.2% of the population being 18 years of age or older and 18.3% being 65 years or older. Twenty-two point four percent (22.4%) of the households in Dyersville include children under the age of 18 and 29.8% include individuals aged 65 or older. Ninety-two point five percent (92.5%) of the population is white, 2.9% is Hispanic and 1.3% is black or African American. Six-point three percent (6.3%) of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Six-point two (6.2%) percent speak Spanish at home, and 0.2% speak other Indo-European languages. Ninety-two point five percent (92.5%) of residents age 25 or older are high school graduates or higher. Twenty-point seven percent (20.7%) have a bachelor's degree or higher.

James Kennedy Public Library patrons are of all ages and interests. Based on the 2020 population US Census Bureau and the current number of JKPL library card holders, as of April 1, 2026, forty-eight point two percent (48.2%) of city residents hold library cards. Non-city residents are also frequent library users. Forty-two point nine percent (42.9%) of James Kennedy Public Library cardholders are nonresidents.

In 2024, the Board of Trustees reviewed and updated the Strategic Plan approved in 2022 to include the following library service responses – Be Informed; Celebrate Diversity; Express Creativity and Literacy for All. These service priorities are described as follows:

- ***Be Informed (Blending Information focused LSRs):***
 - Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services:* Residents will have a central source for information about the wide variety of programs, services, and activities provided by community agencies and organizations.
 - Make Informed Decisions: Information Fluency, Job and Career Development,*
 - Be an Informed Citizen:* Residents will have the resources they need to identify and analyze risks, benefits, and alternatives before making decisions that affect their lives.

- ***Celebrate Diversity: Cultural Awareness***
 - Residents will have programs and services that promote appreciation and understanding of their personal heritage and the heritage of others in the community.

- ***Express Creativity: Create and Share Content***
 - Residents will have the services and support they need to express themselves by creating original print, video, audio, or visual content in a real-world or online environment.

➤ ***Literacy for All (blending Literacy focused responses):***

Create Young Readers: Early Literacy: Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.

Learn to Read and Write: Adult, Teen, and Family Literacy: Adults and teens will have the support they need to improve their literacy skills in order to meet their personal goals and fulfill their responsibilities as parents, citizens, and workers.

These service priorities, which apply to all ages, serve as guiding principles as the library makes selection decisions.

As a participant in the State Library's Access Plus (InterLibrary Loan) program, JKPL is able to provide interlibrary loan services (borrow items from other libraries in Iowa or the United States) for eligible patrons with needs outside the scope of the collection.

Purpose:

The purpose of the James Kennedy Public Library's collection development policy is to guide the librarians and to inform the public about the principles upon which selection decisions are made. A policy cannot replace the judgment of librarians, but stating goals and indicating boundaries will assist them in choosing from a vast array of available materials.

The responsibility of the library is to serve the entire community; not to promote, and above all, not to censor any particular political, moral, philosophical, or religious convictions or opinions. It is not the purpose of the library to stimulate or cater to trivial, antisocial, prurient, or immoral interests. But no one, least of all a free public library, has the right to judge what another may or may not read, hear, or view.

History shows that many books which have been most controversial or objectionable to some persons or groups, have, in due course, been recognized to be among those books, which most, rather than least, belong in public libraries. If an idea is truly dangerous or evil, the best protection against it is a public that has been exposed to it and has rejected it.

As the foundation for its collection development policy, the Board of Directors of the James Kennedy Public Library adopts the Library Bill of Rights of the Council of the American Library Association, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View statements.

Responsibility for Collection Development:

Ultimate responsibility and final authority for collection development lies with the Board of Trustees. The Board delegates to the Library Director and senior staff the selection of library materials and the development of the collection.

Criteria for Selection:

The objective of selection is to collect those books and other library materials that will inform, educate, entertain, and contribute to the enrichment of mind and spirit. The collection will be built to meet the needs and interests of the community and include diverse and inclusive materials. Nontraditional items, such as those collected for the Library of Things, are referenced in this policy but are more specifically addressed in the Library of Things Collection Development and Circulation Policy.

Books and other library resources will be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation or because the content contains themes some people may find objectionable. A diverse collection should contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences.

Items considered for inclusion in the library collection will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- excellence of reputation of the work
- opinion of critics and reviewers
- authority and reputation of author and / or publisher
- accuracy and timeliness
- creativity and vitality
- literary merit
- appeal and relevance to community interests
- format suitable for library use
- suggestions by library users
- price and availability of funds
- relationship to other items in the collection

Recommendations for materials from citizens of the community will be considered carefully. Items will be added as budget allows.

Selection Resources:

Among the selection tools used by librarians are professional library journals, trade journals, subject bibliographies, publishers' promotional materials, and reviews from reputable sources. Librarians should also be aware of materials reviewed in national newspapers and magazines, local publications, the broadcast media, and from reputable sources available via the Internet.

The following professional journals are representative of the many aids used for selection of materials: *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, *Horn Book*, and *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*.) In addition, other works may be consulted, including but not limited to the following: *Public*

Library Catalog Core Collection: Nonfiction, Fiction Catalog, Children's Catalog, Junior High School Catalog, and Senior High School Catalog. Library staff responsible for selecting use their own judgement in deciding which resources best fit their needs in selecting for the JKPL.

Scope of the Collection:

The basic policy of selection is to choose the best new materials and duplicate or replace the older titles which have proven their worth.

The James Kennedy Public Library collection includes the following areas:

Adult Fiction (Print)

The library provides a collection of standard and contemporary fiction titles as well as genre fiction for the intellectual enrichment, informational, and entertainment needs and interests of the adult population of Dyersville. Multiple copies of frequently used titles may be provided. Large print, eBook, audio, and eAudio copies of some titles may also be available.

Adult Nonfiction (Print)

The library maintains a collection of general interest nonfiction titles to provide for the information needs and browsing interests of the adult population of Dyersville. Large print, eBook, audio, and eAudio copies of some titles may also be available.

- Legal and medical works will be acquired only to the extent that they are useful to the layman.
- Textbooks are not ordinarily purchased by the library.
- The James Kennedy Public Library is a public library and strives to maintain an impartial recognition of all religions while specializing in none. The library is a reflection of the community it serves so collections relevant to some faiths or beliefs may be broader than others.

Periodicals (Print)

The library maintains a collection of magazines for informational and recreational reading. Issues are maintained for one year or as space and demand dictate.

Newspapers (Print)

Newspapers are selected to provide local, state, regional and national coverage. Local newspapers plus a selection of regional and national titles are purchased. The print copy of the Dyersville newspaper is archived until it is available on microfilm or digitally. Issues of local papers (Manchester and Cascade) are kept for a minimum of six months. Issues of state, regional or national papers are retained for one month.

Reference Materials (Print)

Reference materials provide timely and accurate information on a wide variety of topics. Because of method of use or cost, they may be maintained primarily for in-library use

only or may be circulating. Many traditional print reference resources have been replaced by electronic resources which are more current and available to patrons even when the library is closed. The library is very selective in what they add to the print reference collection.

Reference Materials in Digital Format

Some reference tools are purchased in digital formats which are available online. These materials are selected following the same criteria as print items.

Iowa History and Local Genealogy Collection

Nonfiction books about Dyersville, Dubuque and Delaware Counties, and the State of Iowa are housed in a separate collection. This collection also includes family histories and genealogies of local interest. These materials are selected and retained under the following criteria:

- The library attempts to be as inclusive as possible in obtaining books pertaining to the history, economic, social, and cultural life of Dyersville.
- The library makes no attempt to be inclusive in its collection of materials on Dubuque and Delaware Counties or the State of Iowa.
- The library does not collect letters, papers, documents, photos, or other primary resource material of local interest other than books. These materials are collected by the Dyersville Area Historical Society.

Young Adult (Print)

The young adult collection provides recreational and educational materials for young adults ages 12 – 18. Multiple copies of frequently requested titles may be provided.

YA Fiction

The library maintains a variety of Young Adult fiction. Award winning titles, titles that deal with current issues and concerns of teenagers, popular authors and titles, and titles requested by the patrons are included in the collection.

YA Nonfiction

The library maintains a nonfiction collection for Young Adults that contains general informational works, browsing items and items that are of interest to people in 7th-12th grades, and items that supplement the educational needs of teens.

Children's (Print)

Children's materials are selected to meet the recreational, educational and cultural needs of children from infancy through age 12. Multiple copies of frequently requested titles may be provided.

Picture Books

These books, in which illustration is as important as text, serve to introduce children to the world of books. The library includes a wide variety for adults to read to toddlers and preschoolers and for children to look at and use as they begin to read. This collection includes beginning readers, concept books, wordless books and board books as well as picture books.

Juvenile Fiction

The library maintains a variety of children's fiction, from distinguished children's literature to popular and enticing titles that will attract readers of many tastes and abilities. Popular series titles are purchased in response to patron requests and as funding permits.

Juvenile Nonfiction

The juvenile nonfiction collection contains general informational works, browsing items and subject-oriented materials on topics of interest to children preschool age through sixth grade. The library does not provide basic texts or materials needed for schoolwork. It may, however, purchase supplementary materials to enrich the resources available at area schools.

Read-Alongs

Read-alongs are children's materials that include the print book along with some form of audiobook. The library collection is primarily intended for children up to 2nd grade but selections for other ages may be added if deemed appropriate by the selector.

Library of Things and Realia

The Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional library items that complement the JKPL's mission. Types of Things included in this collection are Home Improvement and Assistive Devices, Audiovisual Equipment and Electronics, Science and Technology Kits, and Recreation and Crafting Tools. The Library of Things is not intended to be comprehensive and the library is limited by storage space and budget available. More details about this collection can be found in the the Library of Things Collection Development and Circulation Policy.

Multimedia:

Computer software:

The library provides word processing, spreadsheet and educational software preloaded on the public access computers.

Console Games:

The library provides a console game collection for informational, educational and recreational purposes. The collection is developed for all ages, but no attempt is made to provide a comprehensive collection. Currently Playstation, Wii, WiiU, Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, and Xbox 360 games are purchased. Donations of other formats are welcome only if enough are donated that the library is able to start a circulating collection. Based upon changing technology and demand, additional formats may be purchased.

Video (DVD, BluRay, etc.):

The library provides a video collection for informational, educational and recreational purposes. The collection is developed for all ages, but no attempt is made to provide a comprehensive collection. Items are primarily purchased in the DVD format. BluRay and donations in other formats may be added to the collection at the discretion of the librarian in charge of this collection.

Audio / Spoken:

The audiobook collection, in compact disc and playaway format, is intended to fill the recreational and informational needs of adults, young adults and children. Both abridged and unabridged formats are included with unabridged being preferred. No attempt is made to provide a comprehensive collection.

Launchpads / Tablets with installed programs:

The Launchpad / tablet collection is intended to fill recreational, informational, and early literacy needs of children in an interactive format. No attempt is made to provide a comprehensive collection.

Tonies:

Tonies are collectible figures that act as physical keys to audio content for children. When placed on a Toniebox (a cushioned, screen-free speaker), they magnetically trigger stories, songs, or educational content. The Tonie collection is intended to fill recreational, informational, and early literacy needs of children in an interactive format. No attempt is made to provide a comprehensive collection.

Creation Station Collection:

The JKPL provides access to materials, collections and equipment to promote active learning. These items are intended for in-house use for learning, creating, making and doing. They are generally focused upon the areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), Do It Together and Do It Yourself activities. Items included in this collection include such things as robots, circuits, LEGOs® or other building materials, craft supplies and equipment, etc. There is some cross-over between this collection and the Library of Things. No attempt is made to provide a comprehensive collection.

Digital Collections:

The JKPL provides access to materials in digital formats, including but not limited to eAudio, eBook, eMagazine, streaming video, and downloadable music. Items in these collections are generally provided through consortia agreements but where the JKPL has selection authority, the criteria for the comparable physical format will be utilized in making the selection decisions.

The Library seeks to draw upon the collections and resources of the State Library of Iowa so as not to unnecessarily duplicate services and materials. Interlibrary Loan will be used to secure from other libraries those specialized materials.

Collection Maintenance:

In order to provide an up-to-date, current, readily accessible, and attractive collection of materials, the library collection will be weeded on a continuous basis, following a schedule developed and implemented by the library director and staff.

Weeding will be performed by the library staff with final judgment as to whether an item should be pulled resting with the Board of Trustees. Such responsibility has been delegated to the Library Director and senior library staff.

Items to be weeded will be determined according to the following general criteria. The titles will be judged based on their most recent copyright, the most recent circulation date or turnover rate, and whether they are “MUSTY”...(M-Misleading...and/or factually inaccurate; U-Ugly...worn and beyond mending or rebinding; S-Superseded...by a newer edition or by a much better item on the subject; T-Trivial...of no discernible or scientific merit; Y-Your collection has no use for this book.... irrelevant to the needs and interests of the community).

Following this preliminary check, the materials which are being considered for withdrawal from the adult collections may be checked against the Core Collection Guides: *Fiction Catalog* – for fiction materials, and the *Public Library Catalog: Nonfiction* – for non-fiction materials, or other core resource books. Maintenance of the adult collections is the responsibility of Library Director and / or the staff member(s) specifically assigned by the Library Director.

Children and YA materials will be weeded following the same general criteria. Items considered for removal may be checked against *Children’s Catalog*, *Junior High Catalog*, *High School Catalog*, *Fiction Catalog*, *Public Library Catalog*, and various Award winner lists. The Children’s Librarian and the Young and Emerging Adult Librarian have the responsibility for maintaining these collections.

The Library of Things collection(s) will be weeded following the same general criteria. Maintenance of these collections is the responsibility of the staff member(s) specifically assigned.

Items in the multimedia collections will be weeded following the same general criteria. Maintenance of these collections is the responsibility of the staff member(s) specifically assigned

Gaming materials (board and console) will be weeded following the same general criteria. The Young and Emerging Adult Librarian has the responsibility for maintaining the gaming collections.

Creation Station Materials will be weeded following the same general criterial. Maintenance of this collection is the responsibility of the staff member(s) specifically assigned

This policy presents general guidelines for collection maintenance. It cannot replace or usurp the practical knowledge of the librarians. Materials may still be returned to the shelves at the librarian’s discretion, or culled sooner due to space constraints or other issues. The following chart provides general guidance on with items should be considered for culling.

CLASSIFICATION	LAST CIRC (years)	COPYRIGHT (years)	Notes
Adult fiction	3 years	Doesn’t apply	
000 (general topic)	3 years	10 years	
100	3 years	10 years	
200	3 years	10 years	
300	3 years	10 years	

300 (almanacs)	3 years	5 years	
400	3 years	10 years	
500	3 years	10 years	
600	3 years	5 years	
700	3 years	Doesn't apply	
800	Doesn't apply	Doesn't apply	Classic literature kept
900 travel	3 years	5 years	
900 history	3 years	Doesn't apply	
900 personal narrative	3 years	10 years	
Biography (popular)	3 years	Doesn't apply	
Biography (historical)	3 years	Doesn't apply	
Young Adult fiction	Turnover rate	Doesn't apply	
Children's fiction	Turnover rate	Doesn't apply	
Iowa History & Genealogy Collection	Doesn't apply	Doesn't apply	This collection is generally only culled based on condition
Media	2 years	Doesn't apply	
Games and other selective realia	1 year	Doesn't apply	Some items do not circulate so will be evaluated by condition only
Creation Station	3 years	Doesn't apply	Some items are used in-house only so will be evaluated by condition only
Library of Things	3 years	Doesn't apply	

Comments and Criticism:

Because of the rich diversity of human experience and opinion, it is inevitable that some materials in the library's collection will be objectionable to some people in the community. The library in a very real sense belongs to the whole community – to the minority as well as the majority.

A patron who objects to specific books or other library materials shall be directed to complete the form, *Statement of Concern*, available from the library staff. The following steps will be followed in responding to any submissions:

1. *Statement of Concern* may be submitted only by those with a current JKPL Library Card.
2. After receipt of a *Statement of Concern form*, a committee comprised of the Library Director, the Library Board's Vice President and Secretary, and, at the Committee's discretion, a fourth person, will convene.
3. The committee will check appropriate review journals, the James Kennedy Public Library's Collection Development Policy, and make a decision on the request.

4. The item in question will continue to circulate during the review process.
5. The Library Director will send a letter to the patron explaining the decision.
6. If the patron wishes to appeal the decision, he or she must bring the appeal to the Library Director, who will notify the Board at their next regular monthly meeting, and will place the appeal on the agenda of the following regular Board meeting, thereby allowing at least one full month for Board consideration.
7. Once an item has been reviewed, the decision of the Library Board of Trustees is final and an item will not be reviewed again for five (5) years following a decision by the Board.

The library staff and the Library Board welcome comments and criticisms of the collection as a whole or of individual items. Persons are welcome to meet with the Director or attend Library Board meetings to discuss the statement of purpose, selection policy, library collection as a whole, and individual items in the collection or available through the library.

Reviewed/revised 5/1991; revised 2/02, 7/02, 10/02, 4/06, 1/2012, 6/2015, 2/2019, 11/2019, 9/2023, 4/2026