IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES
POLICY 5000: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

The purpose of the Collection Development and Management Policy is:
- To document collection management procedures;
- To guide staff in the selection, retention, and withdrawal of library materials;
- To inform the public of the philosophy of collection development and the policies involved; and
- To establish a framework for continuous collection evaluation and improvement.

COLLECTION OBJECTIVE
The ImagineIF Libraries’ collection is developed based upon community interests and needs, the composition and use of the existing collection, and input from customers, staff, and the Library Board of Trustees.

ImagineIF’s primary service commitment is to the people within its service area, including people of every age, education, background, personal philosophy, religious belief, occupation, economic level, ethnic origin, and human condition.

The collection contains information on a variety of subjects and views, and is organized to provide unrestricted and easy access within the limitations of space and budget. All ImagineIF materials are intended for public use and, with the exception of selected special or reference collections, all materials are available for check-out.

COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY
The Board of Trustees vests responsibility for selection of library materials in the Library Director under guidelines established by the Board. Members of the staff, qualified by reason of education and/or experience, serve on the Collection Development Team and are assigned to assist with the selection of materials.

GENERAL COLLECTION DESCRIPTION
The library collections are comprised primarily of popular materials directed toward the general public and an effort is made to have the most current information available. There is a special collection of materials that focuses on the history of Flathead County and surrounding areas. Older general material is held only if it has local historical significance.

COLLECTION PHILOSOPHY
ImagineIF Libraries collections are governed by the principles of Fair Treatment, outlined in Policy 1001, as well the belief that libraries are a cornerstone of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm these principles with the people we serve:
- We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library’s resources and services;
- We acknowledge our community members’ individual differences and strive to reflect that by providing a wide spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
• We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources and services;
• We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library’s resources;
• We protect each individual’s privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;
• We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
• We value community input and are committed to make available a wide variety of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment.

By embracing these principles, ImagineIF libraries contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech. We respect individuals and their personal beliefs, and hold all persons truly equal and free.

The presence of materials in the Library collection does not reflect endorsement or approval of its contents by the ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees, ImagineIF Libraries Staff, or its funding agencies. Similarly, materials are not proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval of the work or its creator(s).

[Link to Policy 1001]

SELECTION CRITERIA
Selectors acquire materials based on the following criteria:
• Customer demand and interest
• Critical reviews
• Presentation and readability
• To balance of all sides of an issue
• Author’s reputation and significance as a writer
• Reputation and standing of the publisher
• Local or national significance
• Availability of the material or information elsewhere
• Quality of the physical format
• Reasonable cost

The criteria for selection, acquisition, customer requests, duplication, replacement, and withdrawal (weeding) are the same for all materials and formats. Selection of materials is driven by customer demand in all formats for all ages. Items do not need to meet all criteria to be selected, nor does fulfilment of criteria necessarily guarantee selection.

Selectors use a number of selection aids in order to assist with selection decisions. Such selection aids may include, but are not limited to:
• Reviews in professionally recognized journals, including Library Journal, School Library Journal, VOYA, Kirkus Reviews, and Publisher’s Weekly.
• Book lists and Awards lists from recognized authorities, including library associations

In most cases, the library will not purchase or accept as gifts self-published materials that are not reviewed in established review journals.
Electronic collections available through MontanaLibrary2Go are part of a statewide consortium. These materials are selected and withdrawn by a cooperative committee, not by ImagineIF staff, and are subject to separate collection development policies and procedures. MontanaLibrary2Go is administered by Montana State Library and by two committees: an elected Executive Committee and a volunteer Selection Committee.

**MontanaLibrary2Go Policies and Procedures**

**USER REQUESTS**
ImagineIF values community input on our collections. As such, all user requests are considered for selection. Items requested must meet the criteria described in this policy for selection. ImagineIF holds no obligation to purchase items requested.

Generally requested titles are purchased if:
- The title was published in the last 5 years,
- The cost is less than $35,
- The subject has strong local interest,

If requested items are not selected for purchase, every reasonable effort will be made to secure requested items via the Partners Sharing Group or Inter-Library Loan.

**DUPLICATE PURCHASING**
ImagineIF selectors may purchase multiple copies of items in order to meet the demand of local users. However, every effort is made to ensure that purchasing of duplicates does not occur at the expense of less popular, though equally important, collections.

In order to achieve this balance, ImagineIF maintains a 5:1 hold ratio for all collections. This calculation is made using only holds placed by ImagineIF cardholders, and does not include holds placed at Partner Libraries. Downloadable materials through MontanaLibrary2Go are part of a state-wide consortium. The holds ratio for these items is set and overseen by an outside selection team.

**REPLACEMENT OF MATERIALS**
Selectors are responsible for reviewing withdrawn items, and consider replacement based on the same criteria for original purchase, as well as ongoing demand for that item. There is no limitation on how many times a given title may be replaced, assuming there is sufficient availability and demand for that title.

**WITHDRAWAL OF MATERIALS**
Staff shall review the collection on an ongoing basis with the goal of maintaining the quality and vitality of the library collections. Collection management involves continuous collection evaluation through the use of circulation reports and analysis of collection use. Worn, damaged, and dated materials shall be removed from the collection on a regular basis. Materials may also be withdrawn if they are not used or are superseded by a new edition or a more authoritative work on the same subject. Other criteria that may be applied include the changing demands of users, replacement of materials with other formats, space, and collection balance.

**DISPOSITION OF WITHDRAWN MATERIALS**
All withdrawn materials shall be removed from the MT Shared Catalog, visibly marked as withdrawn and all ImagineIF identification destroyed. Withdrawn materials will be disposed of in the manner deemed most appropriate for that item. Methods of disposal may include:
- Distribution to Library support Organizations and/or vendors for resale;
- Distribution to local entities to support community literacy efforts;
- Freely distributed from the Libraries’ Free Shelf

In rare circumstances, library materials may be recycled. This method of disposal is reserved for items that are heavily damaged or remain after other disposition methods fail.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

The Special Collection exists to collect, preserve, and make available for research primary and secondary archival materials relating to Flathead County. The Special Collection is a repository for materials primarily concerned with Flathead County, Montana. Less extensively collected are materials related to northwest Montana and to the State of Montana as a whole. Materials with no connection to these geographic regions may occasionally be included based on local interest and demand.

Since materials in the Special Collection are intended to provide a persistent source of information on Flathead County, they are for use only in the library. Customers may use items from the Special Collection in any ImagineIF location. When a customer requests that an item from the Special Collection be sent to a satellite location, the item will be transported there by the library courier and will remain available for a limited number of days. Items judged to be irreplaceable or too fragile to transport may be used only at ImagineIF Kalispell.

**DONATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

The Library Board of Trustees welcomes the generosity and thoughtfulness of the community in supplementing the library collections through monetary donations and memorials. The Board requires that all such gifts, grants, donations, devises, or bequests be accepted on its behalf by the Library Director in keeping with guidelines established by the Board.

Donated materials are accepted with the understanding that they will be handled or distributed through balancing the best interests of the library system with the intent of the donor. Upon request, ImagineIF Libraries will provide the donor a receipt, but will not appraise the value of donated items.

Donated and memorial materials are subject to the same standards as the rest of the library collection. The criteria for selection and withdrawal of library materials apply to all items in the library collection, regardless of their origin. Once a gift is accepted, it becomes the property of ImagineIF Libraries, to be used or disposed of in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Trustees. If added to the library’s collection, all materials will be shared by the entire library system and will be made available to all borrowers, including participants in the Montana Shared Catalog Partners Resource Sharing Group.

While all donations are reviewed by selectors, due to space constraints, as well as the cost of cataloging and processing donated materials, most donated materials are not added to the collection. If donated materials are not added to the collection, they are subject to the same disposition process described in this policy.

Donors of funds for the purchase of library materials are encouraged to provide some guidance in the selection of materials by specifying an appropriate broad subject area. While taking under advisement the donor request, ImagineIF Libraries reserves the right to the final decisions regarding all materials. Library materials purchased with donated funds may be designated by a bookplate or other appropriate identification at the request of the donor.
Monetary gifts, grants, donations, and bequests shall be placed in the ImagineIF Libraries Gift and Memorial fund to be expended. If a monetary gift, donation, or bequest is substantial, and if the intended purpose allows such transfer, the Board of Trustees may consider transferring it to the ImagineIF Library Foundation for investment and management in keeping with the intent of the donor.

ImagineIF Libraries will not return unsolicited materials, nor will it be responsible for payment of costs incurred when unsolicited materials are sent. Unsolicited materials will be added to the collection or disposed of accordingly.

CENSORSHIP AND SELECTION
ImagineIF Libraries believes in freedom of information for all, and does not practice censorship. The selection of library materials is based on a person’s right to read, listen, and view and the freedom from censorship by others. Attempting to meet the needs and interests of a diverse population requires a wide range of materials. Inevitably, there will be something in a balanced collection that may be unacceptable or disturbing to someone.

The function of materials selection is to obtain print and non-print materials suited to meet the diverse needs of Flathead County citizens. As professional librarians, selectors are conscious to not allow personal biases, pressure from outside individuals or groups, or fear of such pressure to influence selection decisions. Following the democratic principles under which it operates, the Library is obligated to fairly represent all sides of controversial topics, wherever possible.

ImagineIF Libraries holds censorship to be a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to personally reject materials of which he or she does not approve, he or she may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others. For this reason, selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors. Cataloging and classification should in no way represent a value judgment of the material, and as such items are not labeled to show approval or disapproval, nor to subjectively identify certain philosophies. No items are sequestered except to protect them from damage or theft.

ImagineIF Libraries does not act In Loco Parentis, and as such, responsibility for materials selected and read by children and adolescents rests with their parent or legal guardians.

ImagineIF Libraries does not collect materials that fall within the U.S. Supreme Court’s definition of obscenity and asserts that the definition and application of obscenity is the responsibility of the judiciary.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION PROCEDURE
Criticism and comment on material selected for inclusion in or exclusion from the collections is an essential right of community members and a valuable part of the ImagineIF Libraries’ selection process. This process provides an opportunity for staff members to review and transparently account for selection choices and reasoning.

The Library Board of Trustees acknowledges that occasional objections to resources will be made despite the care taken and the procedures followed in their selection. The Library Board and library staff are prepared to defend the principles of freedom to read and access information. Objections to particular language or point of view of material cannot be used as justification for the exclusion of materials.
Selectors will gladly respond to any concern from users about library materials owned by ImagineIF. If users are not satisfied with this response, they will be referred to the Library Director. If a complaint cannot be resolved informally, the complainant may complete and return a written and signed Citizen Comment on Library Materials Form. This form may be obtained from any ImagineIF staff member. In the absence of a fully completed form there is no formal complaint and no action will be taken. Completed Reconsideration forms will be considered only if reasonable attempts for informal resolution have been made.

When a fully completed written complaint is received, a formal review process begins. During the formal review process, all existing copies of the challenged material shall remain in circulation and are subject to the same management described in this policy. The investigation process is as follows, and should be completed within 45 days of receipt of the formal complaint:

- The Library Director will consult with the selector and respond in writing to the user.
- If further action is required, a review committee of professional level staff will investigate the complaint;
- The challenged title will be reviewed in full by the committee;
- The review committee will meet to discuss the title. Discussion should include, but is not limited to:
  - An accounting of how the material was acquired,
  - The objective legality of the material in question,
  - Analysis of circulation data,
  - Critical reviews of the title, its author(s), publisher, etc.
  - The application of ImagineIF selection criteria
- A formal committee recommendation will be written and presented to the Library Board of Trustees
- The committee’s decision may be appealed to the library board which will review the material and make a final decision, following established voting procedure.

Request for (Re)consideration forms are available in Appendix.

Adopted:  4/09/2008
Revised:  9/22/2011
Revised:  10/22/2014
Revised:  10/25/2017
Revised:  5/26/2022

Heidi Roedel, Vice-Chair
Library Board of Trustees
Appendix: Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Please describe the item in question as fully as you are able:
Title:______________________________________
Author(s):___________________________________
Format (book, recording, etc.):_____________________
Call number or location in library:___________________
How was it brought to your attention?

Please state the action you wish taken on this item:
[ ] Shelve it elsewhere
[ ] Remove from the library     [ ] Other (specify):

Why?

Please explain how such an action would improve the library’s service to the community:

Have you (read, viewed, listened) to the entire work?
If not, then which parts?

Name:________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________
Telephone:___________ E-mail:___________________
Signature:_____________________________ Date:__________
(Optional) I am acting as a spokesperson for the following group or association:

Collection Development