Cork County Library Collection Development Policy 2024-2027



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Cork County Library Collection Development Policy 2024-2027

Mission Statement

Cork County Library aims to empower communities by providing access to resources to educate, inform, enlighten and enrich the lives of their citizens by supporting and promoting literacy and a love of reading, and by collecting and preserving resources relating to the cultural heritage of County Cork.

Objectives

The objective of this policy is to provide a framework by which the library service can develop and maintain collections that fulfil the aims of our mission statement. The goal of the collections policy is to provide our library members with materials that satisfy their needs and interests, in a range of formats and to ensure the widest possible access to our collections for all library members. Cork County Library aims to develop our collections to fulfil the needs of the various users of the library services of all ages, ethnicities, gender, and abilities in the most inclusive and equitable methods possible. The library commits to expanding and conserving resources in our special collections so that they will be available to future generations, thus adding to the cultural narrative of the County. In drafting this Collections Development Policy, Cork County Library has given due consideration to its role as a public library service, to serving the needs of the citizens of County Cork and to delivering the vision of Cork County Library as outlined in the Library Development plan 2020 -2025. This Policy is underpinned by the principles of social inclusion, accessibility, well-being and sustainability.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define how the objectives of the Collections Policy will be met, developed and reviewed. The purpose of this document is also to inform the public of guidelines and criteria used when acquiring stock for Cork County Library Service and to provide an overview of how the library manages its collections. In accordance with our mission statement it will ensure that library collections remain relevant and adequate to meet the changing needs of library users in the County.

Introduction

Cork County Library has over 900,000 physical items in its collections. These items are held in a variety of locations across the County: in the twenty-five branch libraries, four mobile libraries, County Library headquarters and library bookstores. Library users can request items not held at their local library from other Cork County libraries or from other libraries throughout the country. A national library management system with nationwide delivery for requested items means that library users have access to the collections held by all other library authorities in the Republic of Ireland. New items are catalogued and distributed from library headquarters. Older stock is rotated on an ongoing basis, throughout the Cork County Library network, as is required. A back catalogue of all types of items is maintained in our library bookstores. The stock in our bookstores can be retrieved if required for requests. Requests can be made by the public, via the local branch library or mobile libraries for any item held in bookstores. Requests can be made by the public online for items held by Cork County Library and items held in other public libraries in the country.

In the context of this document, library stock is defined as any materials, in any format acquired by the library including printed, digital, and electronic formats, available to borrow or consult in our libraries or online.

Current Collections: An Overview

The various items held by Cork County Library Service can be roughly categorised into two types: General Collections and Special Collections. There is overlap between the two but for the most part the special collections are housed at Cork County Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road, and the general collections are at various locations across the County in the network of branch libraries and mobile libraries. Each branch library throughout the county holds a collection of adult and children's stock. Items can also be found in different formats, including online and downloadable formats, printed books, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, musical instruments, and DVDs. Depending on the size of a branch library, the scope of the collection and the types of format available will vary. Smaller libraries with limited physical space will have smaller collections available on the premises. Cork County Library has developed several specialist collections over the years, reflecting the different needs and interests of our library members. Most of the items in our special collections are available for request through the mobile and branch library network. Some items held in County Library Headquarters are for library use only. A back catalogue of older material is also available to the public by request from our library stores via mobile and branch libraries.

General Collections

- Fiction and non-fiction books for adults held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.
- Fiction and non-fiction books for children and young adults held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.
- Smaller collections of local studies items held in branch libraries and pertaining to the locality of the branch library.
- Fiction and non-fiction books in large print, held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.
- Audio-books and DVDs held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.

- Electronic resources, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, language learning resources for children and adults.
- The Your Good Self Programme, a collection of self-help books that promote positive mental health and wellbeing, is held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.
- Items for children to support national initiatives under the Right to Read Programme, such as Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family
 Time at Your Library held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.
- Items for adults suitable for general needs or to support national programmes and initiatives, such as Right to Read (adult literacy materials) and Healthy Ireland (selfhelp items) held in branch libraries and mobile libraries.
- Irish Language materials for adults and children held in branch and mobile libraries.
- A limited collection of foreign language and language-learning materials, including books in foreign languages, is held in some branch libraries to support the growing multi-lingual population of the county. The quantities of items and the range of languages covered is as inclusive as possible, within the budget available.
- Newspapers including national daily papers and local papers are held in branch libraries. The range of papers held in a branch are tailored to suit the needs of the library users in that branch library and the space available for storing them.

Special Collections

- A Local Studies collection, which is located at the Cork County Library Headquarters,
 Carrigrohane Road, including the Cork Collection. Items in this collection are not available for loan but can be consulted in the library.
- A Newspaper collection containing national and local newspapers is held in the Local Studies Library at the County Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road. Back issues are held for a limited time as constraints such as space are a factor.

- A collection of specialised magazines and special-interest journals is maintained for browsing purposes and as a supplement to the book collection in the Local Studies Library at County Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road.
- Choral sheet music collection housed at the County Library Headquarters,
 Carrigrohane Road and available by request for loan at any library service point.
- Drama collection, housed at the County Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road and available for loan by request at any library service point.
- Adult fiction in foreign languages, housed at the County Library Headquarters,
 Carrigrohane Road and available by request for loan at any library service point.
- Musical instruments stored centrally at the County Library Headquarters,
 Carrigrohane Road are available by request for loan at any Cork County Library service point by Cork County Library members under the "A Sound Initiative" scheme.
- Book Club sets for adults, children and teens, held at Cork County Library
 Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road and available for loan to book club members via
 mobile and branch libraries.
- Class Novel sets for children, held at Cork County Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road and available for loan to schools, by request through the Children's Services department.
- Teaching Resource collection, held at Cork County Library Headquarters, available for loan by teachers in Cork County schools.
- Sensory Toy Collections, jigsaws, and games available for use in some branch libraries.

Additions to Stock: An Overview

Cork County Library acquires stock items to meet the needs and expectations of our library users. Acquisition of items for our collections are generally made by library staff in the

Bibliographic Services section using funds from the book budgets to purchase items. Acquisition can also be made by the library by means of donations of new items, e.g. local publications, directly to the library. Acquisitions of other non-book stock items can be from budgets other than the book budget as and when funds are made available. Expertise of staff in stock selection is used in tandem with recommendations from the public to purchase stock. Cork County Library takes an inclusive and client-centered approach to acquiring items for the library. Staff are alert to identifying the needs of the people in their communities and this knowledge is communicated to purchasing staff. Branch library staff assess gaps in collections, monitor popularity of collections, and send regular feedback to Bibliographic Services section for consideration when purchasing stock. There is an internal system available to all staff members to submit items for consideration for purchasing. These recommendations can be based on direct interaction from the public or from observations made by staff as to gaps or weakness in collections. Cork County Library Service is constantly striving to make our collections reflective of the communities we serve. Additions to our collections are directed by the needs and expectations of our library members. Accessibility in our collections is a priority and those in our communities who may experience difficulties with printed text are catered for by including different formats in our collections, where it is possible to do so, such as audiobooks and graphic narrative books. Cork County Library subscribes to a growing number of online resources, providing access for our members to newspapers, graphic novels, journals, e-magazines, ebooks, e-audiobooks, language courses and online classes across a range of subjects. The range of online resources and databases becoming available is ever expanding. Cork County Library embraces innovation and opportunities in the area of new digital formats and databases, as well as continuing to add to collections in formats already held, in the context of budgetary and technical considerations and user trends.

Purchasing for Collections: Considerations and Criteria

 National procurement for library stock suppliers, with a tendering process for contracts administered by the Local Government Management Agency.

- Value for money and budget constraints when deciding on specific items and on quantities to purchase.
- Professional judgement based on knowledge and experience of staff in more specialised areas is used for selecting items for the different collections.
- Present and potential relevance to community needs and local interests or events.
- Staff knowledge and professional awareness in the selection of titles.
- Materials to support local events, groups, book clubs, literary festivals, Seachtain na
 Gaeilge, Bealtaine Festival, as and when they occur around the country.
- Materials to support national initiatives such as Right to Read, Healthy Ireland and any new programmes, as and when they are run.
- Materials to support local initiatives, such as Your Good Self, STEAM and Climate
 Action and any new programmes, as and when they are run.
- Materials to include a wide range of themes and subject areas, to provide excellent choice for library users.
- Supporting minority groups in the community by purchasing items to fulfil their needs or interests.
- Demand for and interest in a title or author.
- Display and storage space available for stock in branches.
- Quality or suitability of materials for library use. Items must be available in a loanable format that represents value for money.
- Artistic presentation and/or literary merit of item.
- Reputation and authority of authors or publishers in a subject area.
- The currency, accuracy and clarity of information and unbiased information contained in materials.

- Cork interest or local special interest, items with a connection to County Cork, whether it is about Cork, by a Cork-born author, or author with strong Cork connections or Cork publisher.
- Irish language materials, reflecting a commitment to the preservation of our native language, and the existence of Gaeltacht areas in Cork County, as well as the many Gaelscoileanna, Gaelcholáistí and Naíonraí in the county and our libraries in Gaeltacht areas.
- Items with foreign language text and language-learning materials will be acquired to support the growing multi-lingual population of the county where budgets permit.
- Age appropriateness of items for babies, children, teenagers, and young adults.
- Provision of suitable titles at all reading levels and across all ages for children.
- Sensitive treatment of controversial topics for children.
- Relevant formats and illustrations suitable and attractive for children.
- Children's materials will be selected to include experience of diversity in our communities, endorsing the importance of all children to see themselves reflected in stories and to see the experience of others through stories.
- Acquiring course textbooks will be at the discretion of Bibliographic Services staff.
 Decisions to acquire this type of item will give due consideration to the budget available and the potential use of the item.
- Additions to collections will support the principles of life-long learning and selfimprovement for all library members.
- Additions to collections will be selected with regards to the interests, experiences
 and perspectives of rural life and society, and with a view to supporting the principle
 of rural inclusion and mitigating against rural isolation.
- Additions to collections will include different formats and materials and will include different levels of difficulty to accommodate different literacy and learning needs.

- Items added to stock will be selected to actively support diversity and representation, such as selecting materials from diverse authors, publishers, and perspectives, content by and about a wide array of people and cultures.
- Additions will be selected with regards to the interests, experiences, and perspectives of people with disabilities and minority groups.

Purchasing for Local Studies Collections: Considerations and Criteria

The Cork Collection

Special attention is given to acquiring items with a connection to County Cork, whether it is about Cork, by a Cork-born author, a Cork-based author or Cork publisher. To ensure that the collection of Cork-related material is as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible, suggestions from staff or the public for any Cork interest materials is sought and acted upon. Limited print runs necessitate prompt acquisition of Cork interest titles and multiple copies are purchased when re-printing is unlikely. Rare books and items for the Cork Collection are acquired by the staff with specialist knowledge. Rare books are occasionally added to the collection, applying specific criteria such as having a Cork or Irish connection. Consideration is always given to the budget available as these can be expensive books due to their rarity. They are selected primarily using reputable collectors' catalogues and auction catalogues. Consideration is given to the following when purchasing rare books:

- The availability of the book in question in other Local Authorities, particularly in Cork
 City Library or UCC.
- The Local Studies Library Rare Books Policy (used to evaluate the suitability of future acquisitions).

Periodical and Specialised Magazine Collection

A collection of specialised magazines and special-interest journals is maintained for browsing purposes and as a supplement to the book collection in the Local Studies Library at

Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road. This selection is reviewed annually for value for money, ongoing demand by library users and continued relevance.

Newspapers

The selection of national and local newspapers held in the Local Studies Library in Library Headquarters is reviewed annually for value for money and ongoing demand by library users. Access to back issues of certain national, local, and provincial newspapers is available, subject to demand and storage space available.

Criteria Considered for Accepting Donations

The donation of books in excellent physical condition will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Donations are accepted on the basis that access, locations and disposal of donations will be determined by Cork County Library. Donations of titles in poor condition will not be accepted unless of high value or interest, this to be decided by Bibliographic Services staff in HQ or local branch staff. Donations of titles widely available in the library system will not be accepted. The general selection, distribution and disposal criteria applied to purchased stock will also apply to donated stock. The donation of complete collections will be considered under certain conditions. It may be more appropriate for some materials offered to be relocated to Cork City and County Archives or another institution. The Library may not be able to or wish to agree to all the donor's requests such as keeping all items together. There is a donation policy in place to manage donations to the Local Studies Library and the decision to accept donations to the Local Studies Library rests with the Local Studies librarian (see Appendix C).

Access for library users to items in Collections

A small number of items held by Cork County Library Service are not for loan. These items can be consulted either at County Library Headquarters or by agreement with librarians in a

branch library. The decision to make an item not for loan is based upon the rarity or value of an item and in the interests of preserving collections and resources.

Library Services nationally have moved towards a shared service for book stock loans. This includes a national catalogue with the national delivery system of items by request, across 30 library authorities nationwide. Access for library users to items not held by Cork County Library or held by other libraries nationally may still be available to borrowers. Cork County Library may be able to obtain such items through the British Library Interlibrary Loan service. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis and a charge may apply for these services. Borrowers will be informed of this before items are requested.

In continuing to make our collections as accessible and as inclusive as possible for our members, Cork County Library will continue to acquire and make available stock in a variety of formats. To make titles available to visually impaired, physically impaired, aurally impaired, mobility impaired or housebound library members, formats such as large print books, DVDs, audio books, e-books e-audio books, e-magazines will be made available to library members. The library is working towards including an audio or large print edition of book club titles.

The library is expanding its graphic novel and wordless picture book collections to incorporate titles that are less text heavy. Musical instruments for loan and board games, jigsaws and sensory toys for use in the library are now being added as collections are expanded to include items other than books in our libraries.

Diversity Representation and Social Inclusion in Collection Development

A commitment to diversity and social inclusion by the library service is at the forefront of practice when selecting materials for our collections for both adults and children.

Marginalised communities are considered when planning collections and selecting materials to add to stock. The demographic of our library members is constantly changing, and Cork County Library Service will continue to strive for appropriate and comprehensive representation for our library members in our collections and resources.

Staff will always tailor stock selection to the needs of the local user base of individual libraries. Each branch library will have access to any materials that fulfil the needs of their specific readership and user demographic.

Cork County Library Service has two island libraries - one on Oileán Chléire (Gaeltacht area) and one on Sherkin island. The library service is committed to providing as comprehensive a service as possible to our members who are also island dwellers. Collections held in these locations will be tailored to meet the needs of these communities and, in so far as is possible, to mitigate against any geographical disadvantage.

Mobile libraries have a rural focus and stock for this service is tailored specifically to the needs of library members in rural areas. Cork County Library Service is committed to improving the quality of life for rural dwellers and alleviating rural isolation. The library service is committed to providing as comprehensive a service as possible to our members living in rural areas.

Censorship and Intellectual Freedom and Collections

Cork County Library Service endeavours to hold balanced collections and to make them available to all our library members. The library service is aware that some items or materials may potentially cause offence to a section of library users. We respect the views of all library users. However, it is not our intention, desire, or policy to restrict the freedom of our members to read what they wish to read. We label where appropriate materials as a means of helpful guidance. Collections will be developed to be as inclusive as possible to all viewpoints, to be age appropriate, balanced and without bias.

Cork County Library supports the rights of parents and guardians to determine reading materials for their own children and requires parental or guardian permission to access the adult library collection for age 15 years upwards and young adult collections for ages 12-15 years. Responsibility for the reading, listening, and viewing of library materials by children rests with their parents or guardians. In the case of e-resources such as graphic novels, it is

sometimes necessary to defer to the publisher or supplier in the allocation of titles under different age categories.

Review of an Item or Materials held by Cork County Library

Any library member can submit a request for **A Review of Item or Materials**, held by Cork County Library Services. This is done by completing and submitting the appropriate form (see *appendix B*). Requests will be reviewed by the County Librarian, Head of Bibliographic Services and/or any other relevant staff. Any, none, or some of the actions below may be taken by Cork County Library service, on completion of a review.

- An item or materials may be re-classified to another readership group.
- An item or materials may be re-classified to a different collection group or type.
- An item or materials may be relocated to a different branch library or library store location.
- An item or materials may be re-classified as library use only or general loan item type.
- An item or materials may be removed from collections.

Items or materials will not be removed from collections unless it can be demonstrated that retention of the item or materials is not in the best interest of the library users. Items or materials will not be removed from collections unless the continued inclusion of the item or materials is deemed by the County Librarian to be in violation of our mission statement.

Development and Management of Collections

Cork County Library Service, as a matter of good management, incorporates the principals of sustainability and value for money in developing and caring for its collections.

Cork County Library is committed to achieving value for money and maximum use from each item held by the library, over the lifetime of that item by managing stock resources in

A careful and considered manner. The best way possible to achieve this is by good stock management practices as outlined below.

Managing stock purchasing:

- By targeted purchasing of the best stock available at the best price.
- Purchasing from suppliers who have been successful in the national tendering process and are thereby committed to providing value for money.
- Tailoring the number of copies of an item purchased to match demand for that item.

Managing stock rotation and distribution:

- Acquisitions are spaced throughout the year to ensure continuous supply of new materials.
- New stock items are distributed systematically throughout the branch library and mobile library service to ensure as wide as possible distribution of the newest and most up to date stock.
- Rotating stock around different locations to maximise loans of every item.

In Branch Best Practice:

- Stock promotion and displays regularly carried out to make the most use of stock.
- Refresh and weed branch collections at regular intervals.
- Match stock carried by branch to the need of their branch demographic.
- Clean and well-presented stock items.

Stock End of Life and Disposal

Stock is rotated from branch to branch as appropriate. The library manages its stock on an ongoing basis and occasionally removes older material. "Weeding" is a term used to describe this process of withdrawing items from a library's collection. It is a routine and

ongoing process that is carried out to keep collections up to date, to prevent overcrowding of shelves and to ensure that the contents of shelves look fresh and attractive. Materials may be removed from the collection for a variety of reasons, including worn stock or rarely used items. Items removed from library shelves will be evaluated for re-use, re-homing or recycling depending upon which is most suitable for this item. If the item is in poor condition and not usable it is sent for recycling. Recycling companies are procured based on a green ethos and value for money. Items are also re-homed by means of donation to community groups, schools or nursing homes. Alternative routes for disposal of unwanted stock are always considered if they are sustainable and community focused. As a matter of good practice Cork County Library will Rotate, Repair and Reuse, Re-home, or Recycle older stock as is appropriate. Binding or rebinding of materials will take place periodically subject to budgetary constraints and will be decided by appropriate staff. Priority is given to the binding of newspapers for the Local Studies Library newspaper collection.

Review of Policy and Practices

It is important to regularly review our collections and their relevance to the communities that we serve. To keep in line with changes in the demographics of our communities and to account for changing needs and changing interests within our communities, our collections may need to be expanded or altered. Cork County Library Service undertakes to evaluate and review this Collection Development Policy as necessary to ensure relevance is maintained and in response to developments and changes as they occur.

Managing, maintaining and preserving our collections are processes that are ongoing by staff across the library service. Best practice is implemented by stock management guidelines for staff. The stock management guidelines are periodically reviewed and updated to respond to changing demands from our client base, changes in resources available, advances in technology and best practice generally in library management. To this end Cork County Library undertakes to conduct regular reviews of our staff guidelines for stock management and best practice.

Conclusion

Collection Development at Cork County Library is client focused, placing the needs and expectations of its library members at the centre of our library service.

The Library Service is dedicated to supporting and promoting literacy and a love of reading through collection development and management.

Cork County Library Service, as a matter of good management, incorporates the principles of sustainability and value for money in developing and caring for its collections.

Cork County Library is committed to delivering an accessible service that promotes social inclusion. This policy is underpinned by these principles.

Cork County Library Service is committed to expanding and conserving resources in its special collections so that they will be available to future generations, thus adding to the cultural narrative and the cultural heritage of County Cork

Appendix A: Statutory and Policy Documents

- The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration. National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027. Department of Rural and Community Development, Government of Ireland, Dublin 2023.
- Our Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring Connecting and Empowering Communities.
 Department of Rural and Community Development, Government of Ireland, Dublin 2018.
- Sustainable, Inclusive & Empowered Communities Strategy: A five year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024, Department of Rural and Community Development, Government of Ireland, Dublin 2019.
- Cork County Council, Library Accessibility Guidelines, Cork County Council, Cork
 2023.
- Cork County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024, Cork County Council, Cork 2019.
- Library Service Development Plan 2020-2025, Cork County Library Service, Cork 2023.
- Guidelines for a Collection Development Policy using the Conspectus Model, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 2001.
 http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/acquisition-collection-development/publications/gcdp-en.pdf
- Public libraries Act 1947

Appendix B: Library Item/Materials Review Request Form

Cork County Council Library & Arts Service

Library Item or Materials Review

Information on the item for which you are requesting a review:

<u>Title:</u>	
Author:	
Any other relevant information: publisher, format if appli	icable e.g. text or online resource
What is your reason for requesting a review of this item of	or material?
What brought this item or material to your attention?	
Name:	Phone:
E-mail:	
Address:	
Signature:	Date:

Please fill in all areas of this form with as much information as possible. Requests will be referred to County Librarian for item / materials review.

Appendix C: Local Studies Donations Policy



Donation of material to Local Studies collection

Description of donation:	
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Terms of donation

 Cork County Council Library and Arts Service welcomes donations of material of local interest for its Local Studies department. Special attention will be given to acquiring items with a connection to County Cork, whether it is about Cork, by a Cork-born author, Cork-based author, Cork publisher.

- 2. Donations of material in book or non-book format will be considered on a case by case basis. Cork County Council Library and Arts Service reserves the right to accept or reject a donation.
- 3. Donations are accepted on the basis that access, locations and disposal of donations will be determined by Cork County Council Library and Arts Service.
- 4. Cork County Council Library and Arts Service will use its best endeavours to ensure that the described material is placed in suitable storage, protected against damp, fire, flood, vermin, illegal access, but cannot hold itself liable for material that may be damaged, lost or stolen.
- 5. The described material will be made available to the public in accordance with Cork County Council Library and Arts Service current policies and regulations.
- 6. Cork County Council Library and Arts Service adheres to current copyright legislation for the purposes of the use of the described material and publication of parts of it.
- 7. Donations are accepted on the basis that Cork County Council Library and Arts Service has the right to digitize the items, publish donated material on the library website, utilize its content for exhibitions, talks etc. This may include some or all of the following photographing, scanning or microfilming the described material.
- 8. Cork County Council Library and Arts Service reserves the right to return to the depositor or, with his or her consent, to transfer the material to another repository, any material that it deems to be of insufficient historical interest, any material deemed to be of an archival nature, or any material that does not fall within the scope of the Library's Collection Policy.
- 9. Cataloguing, indexing and other means of enabling access may be made on the described material in accordance with Cork County Council Library and Arts Service current practices and resulting records may be made available on the Library's website. Copyright in all catalogues and indexes will be vested in Cork County Council Library and Arts Service.

Deposit Agreement between Cork County Council Library and Arts Service and			
(Donator's name in full)			
terial to Cork County Council	(Donator's name in full) donated Library and Arts Service, Carrigrohane Rd., Cork rts Service becomes the owner of the described	whereby Cork	
Library, County Library Buildi Council Library and Arts Servi	and Arts Service will hold the described material ng, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 K335. Howeve ice reserves the right to change the location of c th its own policy and resources.	er, Cork County	
12. It is assumed that the signato to act on behalf of the owner	ory of this agreement is the owner of the collection.	ion or has the right	
Donator's Signature:			
Donator's Address:			
_			
-			
Staff signature:			
Title _			
Date			