



Clarence Regional Library Collection Development Policy



Responsible Manager (Title)	Regional Librarian		
Adopted by Council	Date 19 December 2024	Minutes 2024.284	
File Reference Number	2707572	Version V5.0	Review Due December 2028
Document(s) this policy Supersedes	V 4.0 2147269		
Community Plan Linkage	1.3 Society - A safe and active community where healthy lifestyles and better health outcomes are encouraged and supported with accessible infrastructure for residents of all ages and abilities		

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Collection Development Policy is to assist in the acquisition and management of library resources and to account to our member councils and the public for the selection of such resources. Success of the policy to meet the collection needs of our communities will be measured through the Collection Needs Survey every 2 years.

The reasons for preparing a Collection Development Policy include:

- to enable the Library to develop a balanced collection of resources that provide for the educational, informational, recreational, and cultural needs of the people served by the Library.
- To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the collection, and to resolve any weaknesses and to continue to build on strengths
- To act as a guideline for future collection building

2 Definitions

<i>Collection Development</i>	Collection Development is based on ongoing assessments of the information needs of library clientele, usage statistic analysis, and demographic projections.
<i>Selection criteria</i>	Criteria used in the selection of items for the library collection



3 Background/legislative requirements

The Clarence Regional Library provides library services for the people of Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire Council. Seven libraries and a mobile library serve these communities. The libraries are situated at Grafton, Maclean, Yamba, Iluka, Bellingen, Urunga, and Dorrigo. The mobile library operates within Clarence Valley Council area.

Regional Services are located within the Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre at Grafton and is headed by the Regional Librarian. All centralised tasks such as acquisitions, accessions, cataloguing, ILLs, reference and rotation of stock are carried out at Regional Services and then are delivered to other libraries via couriers. Rotated stock includes adult and junior fiction, adult non-fiction, talking books, large print books and junior easies. This rotation allows our libraries to have an injection of new books at regular intervals, additional to newly acquired stock.

All lending stock is available to every library member in the region through our reservation system and may be returned to any library in the system. Items may be reserved via our online catalogue or from within our libraries.

3.1 Community profile

The total population of the Clarence Valley Council and Bellingen Shire areas that fund Clarence Regional Library is 68554.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population 2023.

The population of each is shown below based on 2021 Census data:

Table 1. Age distribution by Local Government Area

Local Government Area	Total Pop.	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 54	Over 55
Bellingen	13247	542 (4%)	1 673 (17%)	5 218 (39%)	5 814 (44%)
Clarence Valley	54212	2 578 (5%)	6 073 (11%)	22 228 (41%)	23 241 (43%)
NSW	8 072 141	468 056 (6%)	1 001 945 (12.4%)	4 216 216 (52.2%)	2 385 924 (30%)

In each LGA for individuals aged 0-4 and 5-14 they are comparable with NSW state figures. However, the percentage of the population between 16-54 and over 55 within each of the LGA's is noticeably higher than the state figure.

3.2 Ethnic Characteristics

The majority of residents come from English speaking backgrounds according to Table 2

Table 2. Birthplace of resident – 2021 census data.

	Bellingen	Clarence Valley
Australia	10 518	45 643
England	710	1531
New Zealand	181	655
Philippines	38	219
India	0	168
Germany	98	159
Netherlands	65	153
United States	73	142
South Africa	62	127

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census. Note: These figures indicate the main responses, not all responses.

4 Policy statement

Collection Statements

Scope of the collection

The collection is intended to capture a range of perspectives and voices and reflect the diversity of our communities.

4.1 Reference Collection

The aim of the Reference Collection is to provide access to a broad range of up-to-date information for study and research. It should be of high quality in its content, format and expression. The reference collection is not for loan and includes a range of formats including both print and non-print formats. The Reference Collection also encompasses a number of special collections including, Legal Information Access Centre and Drug Information @ your Library materials. Criteria for selection:

- up-to-date
- written by an authority in the particular field
- easy to use, with appropriate arrangement for the subject, good indexes and bibliographies, illustrations, photographs, maps and timelines.
- relevance to the needs of our patrons
- value for money
- specified by the State Library LIAC and Druginfo coordinators

As is the trend in public libraries, and largely due to internet resources, the Reference Collection is reducing in size. Many reference books are being interfiled into the general Non-Fiction Collection.

4.2 HSC Collection



Each library within the Clarence Regional Library service holds a suitable number of titles specifically published to assist students with their HSC studies. These include past exam papers, study guides and selected texts for English areas of study. The core titles are purchased as a standing order and are displayed in a defined area of each library.

4.3 LIAC Collection

A copy of each title specified by the State Library of NSW Legal Information Access Centre is obtained for each library in the Clarence Regional Library service as part of the Find Legal Answers collection. This collection is maintained on a regular basis as per updated lists from the State Library.

4.4 DrugInfo Collection

A copy of each title specified by the State Library of NSW Drug Information Centre is obtained for each library in the Clarence Regional Library service as part of the DrugInfo collection. This collection is maintained on a regular basis as per updated lists from the State Library.

4.5 Local Studies Collections

The aim of the Local Studies collection is to provide a comprehensive collection of resources relating to the communities served by the Clarence Regional Library. The collection is intended to preserve and make accessible materials of past and present for the future of a cultural, historical, social and environmental nature in a variety of formats. All library locations collect material related to the local history of their area, including council reports and other documents.

The collections will include monographs, newspapers, periodicals, annual reports, pamphlets, photographs, maps, sound recordings, video recordings, manuscripts, microforms. All subjects related to the local area will be covered including history, biography, geography, social conditions, Aboriginal, migrant groups and local industries. Careful attention will be paid to the proper conservation and storage of items. The Library will not collect realia such as costume or furniture (with the exception of some artefacts for display purposes), as this is the responsibility of the Local Historical societies.

The Library will acquire items for the Local Studies collection through purchase, donations and transfers from other council departments. Items are identified through suppliers, local contacts, and other library staff.

All local history titles will have at least one copy "not for loan", with duplicate copies available for loan, if resources allow.

For greater detail please refer to the Local Studies Collection Development Policy (in Appendix).

4.6 Digitised Collection

The library maintains a digital collection of documents. Those produced digitally by both Clarence Valley Council and the Bellingen Shire are usually in pdf format. These are harvested from each council website on a regular basis by Regional Library staff or when identified by other staff.

Once downloaded these documents are catalogued to the library Digital Asset Management module within the Library Management System and made available via the library catalogue.



Criteria for selection:

The documents added to this collection are selected for their long-term historical value for potential future consultation. They are snapshots of Council processes that have cultural, environmental, and historical significance.

Ideally, they will contain;

- local statistics and graphs
- local historical details
- cultural details
- comparisons to state and federal statistics and situations

Draft documents will not be collected, only final published versions.

4.7 Non-fiction Collection

The non-fiction collection contains resources for the recreational and informational needs of all people of all ages in our communities. Material should be collected that allows members of the community to understand and participate in our society, to follow personal interests and to pursue life-long learning. The non-fiction collection should also support school (and other) students carrying out research for projects, local business people and council employees in the course of their work. Hardcover and paperback monographs are collected, depending on price and availability.

Criteria for selection:

- material should be accurate, up-to-date, and non-biased (or if a work presents a clearly-stated viewpoint, it should generally be balanced by another work presenting a differing viewpoint).
- authority of author(s) and publisher
- easy-to-use and containing indexes, bibliographies, photos, illustrations, maps and timelines (depending on the nature of the work)
- relevant to the needs of our patrons
- good quality
- value for money

4.8 Aboriginal collection

The library actively sources titles that have aboriginal content and which have particular significance to local aboriginal communities, their culture and their histories. A portion of the non-fiction budget is specifically allocated to developing this collection and all available contacts and resources are used to identify and purchases titles. Multiple copies of locally significant publications are purchased.

These titles are highlighted through a subject heading in the catalogue record and specific spine labels. Care is taken not to include these titles in the de-selection process.

4.9 Parenting Collection



The library sources titles that cover topics such as general parenting, childbirth and development, childhood illnesses, nutrition and behavioural issues. These titles are highlighted through a subject heading in the catalogue record and specific spine labels.

4.10 Adult Fiction Collection

The Adult Fiction Collection includes all types of fiction suitable for adult readers, including literary and popular works. Multiple copies of best-sellers and award winners are purchased through standing orders, and particular attention is paid to buying Australian fiction (including Aboriginal authors). The purchase of trade paperback books is preferred.

Criteria for selection:

- literary merit
- imaginative writing
- effective plot and characterisation
- in popular demand
- part of existing series
- standard genre fiction - western, mystery, romance, thriller, science fiction and fantasy.

4.11 Large Print Collection

The Large Print Collection is targeted at those patrons who have difficulty reading standard print. It consists of largely fiction titles, with some popular non-fiction (such as biographies) included. The large print collection should include all genres and best-sellers. Softcover will be bought in preference to hardcovers where possible, in consideration for aged or arthritic users.

Criteria for selection

- literary merit
- imaginative writing
- effective plot and characterisation
- standard genre fiction to be included
- in popular demand
- bestselling authors

4.12 Dyslexic Font

Titles in dyslexic font are purchased as an accessible format that alleviates some of the difficulties reported by people with dyslexia. Both junior and adult titles are selected and they are shelved in junior fiction and large print respectively.

Criteria for selection

- bestselling authors
- in popular demand



- literary merit
- imaginative writing
- effective plot and characterisation
- standard genre fiction to be included

4.13 Magazines

The magazine collection is purchased to provide titles of general interest to all ages of the community. Australian publications are the preferred option when selecting and should complement and add currency to the collection. The subscriptions to these are reviewed on a regular basis with input from each library.

Criteria for selection:

- of general interest to the community
- reputable publisher
- regular publishing schedule
- Australian publications preferred
- cost
- popularity
- content

4.14 Young Adult Collection

The young adult collection is aimed at children between the ages of 12 and 18. The collection will include both literary and popular authors, with an emphasis on Australian writers. The collection should contain books of high interest to teenagers to encourage the habit of reading for pleasure.

Criteria for selection:

- literary merit
- original writing
- effective plot and characterisation
- subject matter of interest to young adults
- includes latest trends and genres
- attractive format, including graphic novels
- award winning titles and authors

4.15 Junior Fiction Collection

The junior fiction collection is targeted at children between the ages of 6 and 14. The collection will include both literary and popular authors, with an emphasis on Australian writers. The collection should contain books of interest to children to foster and encourage a lifelong love of reading and literature.

Criteria for selection:

- literary merit
- original writing

- effective plot and characterisation
- of interest to children in primary school
- includes latest trends and genres.
- attractive format, including graphic novels
- award winning titles and authors

4.16 Junior Easy Collection

This collection should introduce children to reading as an enjoyable and rewarding experience by providing a range of titles, which stimulate the imagination, introduce children to language and their cultural heritage, and add to their knowledge of the world. The Junior Easy collection is for children from 0-6 and includes picture books, nursery rhyme and fairytale books, books for parents to read to children, easy books for children who are learning to read. Australian authors and illustrators should be emphasised.

Criteria for selection:

- literary merit
- illustrations that enhance text
- original writing
- attractive presentation
- suitability for the age
- award winning titles

4.17 Readers

To assist with making early literacy resources easier for the community to locate and easier for staff and volunteers to shelve the libraries source and highlight Readers as a separate collection. A reader is a book is which clearly states on the cover or inside that it is a reader and/or gives a reading level. These are purchased through standing order and are highlighted through a subject heading in the catalogue record and specific spine labels and physical location in the libraries.

Australian authors and illustrators should be emphasised.

4.18 Audio Books

The aim of the Audio Book collection is to provide clients of all ages access to a wide range of books in a spoken word format. Criteria for selection should be similar to fiction and nonfiction, taking into account the needs and interests of patrons of this collection, as well as the following criteria.

Criteria for selection:

- unabridged versions where possible.
- quality and clarity of reader's voice.
- physical quality of CD cases.
- availability of replacement CDs.
- downloadable file sources to be included in this format.



It will be necessary to monitor trends in technology to ensure that the Library's audio book collection is providing clients with new and alternative formats as they are developed. for physical Audiobooks only MP3 format will be purchased.

4.19 DVD Collection

The Library's aim is to develop a DVD collection that enhances the fiction and non-fiction collections. It will support and stimulate the information, educational, recreational, and cultural needs of all members of the community. The selection of audio-visual material is aimed at providing viewing, listening and instructional materials to complement and/or supplement the print collections.

Criteria for selection:

- documentaries
- do-it-yourself and instructional presentations
- performance of dramas or screenplays with particular emphasis on Australian works
- popular series, classic films, drama, comedy, award winning films and films with an Australian interest
- R 18+ rated DVD titles will be added to the collection on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to critically acclaimed or award-winning films and TV series.

4.20 eResources

4.20.1 Databases

The Library provides its clients with access to a range of electronic databases provided by NSW.net consortia or purchased individually by the Library. A number of these databases provide remote access for clients. These are reviewed annually for usage and relevance.

4.20.2 eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines

Electronic formats such as eMagazines, eAudio and eBooks are to be selected using the same criteria as traditional magazine, book and talking book formats:

Criteria for selection

- literary merit
- imaginative writing
- effective plot and characterisation
- in popular demand
- part of existing series
- standard genre fiction - western, mystery, romance, thriller, science fiction and fantasy.
- unabridged versions where possible.
- quality and clarity of reader's voice
- value for money
- usage conditions (eg. Loan Limits and Term Limits before repurchase is necessary)



This policy endorses the Library Council of New South Wales, Access to Information in New South Wales Public Libraries statement (see Appendix 3)

4.21 Donations

Donations play an important part in enriching the collection. Donations of material are accepted on the understanding that they become the property of the Library and as such the Library reserves the right to evaluate, use or dispose of the materials as it deems appropriate. Any books not considered suitable for our needs will be sold at the Library's book sale, given to charity or recycled. There is to be no coercion on the part of the donor imposing conditions relating to any gift either before or after its acceptance by the Library.

Donations must meet the selection criteria outlined in the Collection Development Policy for each individual collection area.

Dated, yellowed, damaged or musty items will not be accepted.

4.22 Suggestions for Purchase

Library patrons are encouraged to make suggestions for the purchase of library materials on our "Suggestions for Purchase" page on our Library Catalogue, which can be accessed from home from the library website: www.crl.nsw.gov.au.

We may not buy all the items that are requested for purchase, if we do not consider the item to be suitable for our collection in terms of this Collection Development Policy, we will attempt to obtain the item through our ILL system, and this service will attract a small processing fee.

4.23 Deselection

Deselection is an on-going process that ensures the Library's collection maintains its effectiveness, quality, currency and integrity. In general, factors for deselection mirror those used for selection: content, arrangement & style, format and so on.

Additional criteria for deselection:

- physical condition – dirty, tatty or items damaged beyond repair should be discarded.
- titles that have not been borrowed for two years should be considered for deselection, however this is to be determined on a title-by-title basis for Non-Fiction subjects.
- items that contain outdated or inaccurate information should be removed.
- items superseded by a new edition should be removed.
- incomplete sets or series may be withdrawn, depending on the usefulness of the remaining parts of the set or series.
- duplicate copies in the collection (2 copies of the same title is recommended for older titles)

Deselected items are withdrawn from the catalogue, have their barcodes and spine labels obscured with permanent marker and RFID tags de-commissioned.

Material that is withdrawn from stock is not automatically replaced unless it is a standard work, a popular title or subject. Withdrawn items are offered to the subject specialisation library, sold or recycled.

5 Implementation

Selection criteria

Selection is undertaken using a range of resources:

- bibliographic tools
- library supplier visits and promotional material
- standing orders
- supplier profiling and selection lists
- bookshop and warehouse visits
- suggestions for purchase from the community and staff
- catalogues/reviews

5.1 General Selection criteria

As one of the main duties of the Library is to provide free and equitable access to information for all sections of the community:

- The Library must accept responsibility for providing free access to materials, presenting, as far as possible, all points of view on current issues.
- The librarian must not select materials based on personal, moral, political, social or ideological views, except where subject to State or Federal prohibition.
- Each type of material should be evaluated on its own merits and its suitability for its intended audience.
- Regular deselection of the collection is needed to keep it useful and up-to-date.
- School, TAFE and university textbooks will not be collected unless no other suitable material is available. Where these items are requested, the borrower is advised of the Inter-library Loan option.
- Multiple copies of materials are only bought for high demand fiction, and to a lesser extent, non-fiction. In many subject areas, where the interest is in the subject, rather than particular titles, the Library will purchase several different titles on the same subject. In this way, the library can add variety and depth to the collection. Duplicate copies of the following materials will be purchased:
 - best selling fiction authors
 - literary award winners (Booker Prize, Miles Franklin Award, Children's Book of the Year, etc.)
 - reference books needed on a regular basis at each branch (e.g. Law Handbook, world Book Encyclopaedia, Legal Tool Kit titles).
 - HSC materials
 - popular DVD titles
 - local history titles (loan and reference copies).

5.2 Materials being considered for purchase

Materials being considered for purchase by the Library, should meet the following criteria:

5.2.1 Community Demand

- popular authors
- new reading trends

Media influence e.g. Television programs and movie tie-ins.

5.2.2 Content

- Subject matter should be current or present current views on historical matters.
- Care should be taken that collection in any subject area is balanced and presents.
- all viewpoints
- Representation of significant genre or national culture
- Priority should be given to Australian views of subjects.

5.2.3 Arrangement & Style

- Indexing and bibliographies should be included where appropriate.
- Arrangement, language and style should be suitable for the intended user.

5.2.4 Format

- The format should be suitable for the material presented and convey the information to the user in the most appropriate way.
- Trade paperbacks will be purchased in preference to hardback editions in most instances.
- Hardbacks with library binding will be purchased when no paperback edition is available.

5.2.5 Other

- Cost, value for money
- The availability of information via the Internet should be considered when selecting and weeding materials for the non-fiction collection.
- Due to budgetary constraints, the price, or value for money, of an item, may be considered.

5.3 Reasons for non-inclusion

- Items of a highly technical, highly academic or specialised nature, or those items fulfilling a one-off technical request, may be provided through inter-library loan.
- Material that is suggested that is out-of-date, very expensive, published in an unsuitable format, or where there are suitable alternative titles in stock on the subject.
- Individual titles from a multi-part series for which no other titles are held, whether in print or DVD format.

5.3.1 Censorship (freedom to read)



Censorship powers are vested in both State and Federal governments. Materials prohibited by law will not be included in the collection.

The selection of library materials is based on the patrons' right to read and similarly, freedom from censorship by others. Material will not be rejected on moral, political, racial or religious grounds if it otherwise meets the Library's selection criteria.

It is the responsibility of parents or guardians, rather than library staff, to determine the suitability of materials used by their children.

This policy endorses the ALIA Statement on free access to information and the ALIA Statement on public library services and also the Library Council of New South Wales, Access to Information in New South Wales Public Libraries (see Appendices 1-3).

5.3.2 Controversial Material

The Library aims to include in the collections a representative selection of materials which meet basic selection criteria, are on topics of interest to its readers, including items covering controversial subjects, providing they are not prohibited by law. The Library aims to provide materials which collectively represent all sides of controversial issues.

6 Appeal/objections process

6.1 Complaints

All requests for the review of a selection decision shall be submitted in writing or via email to the Regional Librarian. All queried titles will be re-evaluated by senior library staff and if the original decision is still considered to conform to the selection criteria, the title in question will remain on the shelves. If the criticism is considered to be valid, the title will be placed in another collection (such as Stack) or will be withdrawn. All written complaints will be answered. The final decision will rest with the Regional Librarian.

6.2 Revision of Policy

This Collection Development Policy should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it meets the goals and objectives of the Library. Revisions should take into consideration changes in the community, the publishing and information industries, economic conditions or the role of the public library.

7 Related Documents

1. ALIA Statement on free access to information - <http://www.alia.org.au/aboutalia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statement-free-access-information>



2. ALIA Statement on public library services - <http://www.alia.org.au/aboutalia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statement-public-library-services>
3. Library Council of New South Wales, Access to Information in New South Wales Public Libraries - <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/accesstoinformation2007.pdf>
4. Clarence Regional Library Local Studies Collection Development Policy

8 Attachments

Nil