

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Collection Development Policy

I. Introduction

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries is a consortium of Nebraska public libraries¹ that have joined together to create and maintain a robust shared collection of digital ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines, with financial and administrative support from the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC). The infrastructure for this service is provided through the vendor OverDrive.

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries started in March 2008 with 25 member libraries and in 2022 boasts 189 member libraries with a combined legal service area population of 690,954. Individual member libraries serve populations ranging from 80 to just over 53,500.

Project goals include making access to the OverDrive service affordable for as many Nebraska public libraries as possible, ensuring that all participating libraries have access to more digital content than they would be able to afford on their own, and including content that will serve the widest range of interests for Nebraska residents with library cards from participating libraries.

II. Collection Development

This collection development policy will inform the decisions of the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries selectors for consortium purchases. The goal of the collection is to serve the widest range of patron interests across all participating libraries. Advantage libraries (participating libraries that purchase content for their own patrons) should follow their local collection development policy.

A. Selection Responsibility

Volunteer selectors regularly place recommended titles in consortium carts within OverDrive's Marketplace for NLC staff to purchase. Consortium purchases are submitted weekly. Staff from any participating library may send recommendations directly to the volunteer selectors or NLC staff. Patrons should make requests at their local library to be passed on to selectors or NLC staff for consideration. NLC staff also regularly select titles to purchase (best sellers, classics, missing series titles, sale titles, and additional copies of high-demand titles) in order to maintain a responsive, robust collection, within established budgetary parameters.

B. Scope of Collection

This collection is intended to meet the general information and recreational reading needs of public library users, not to support academic research. This means its coverage will be broad, rather than deep; textbooks and most scholarly books are outside its scope.

¹ The consortium includes one school library, which joined in 2008 as a founding member. OverDrive subsequently restricted consortium participation to public libraries serving populations under 100,000. Lincoln City Libraries and Omaha Public Library, which serve the two largest communities in Nebraska, each have standalone OverDrive collections.

Selectors will identify both ebook and audiobook format titles to add to the collection. Titles will be purchased for adult, young adult, and juvenile audiences.

Selections will be made across a variety of popular genres, including but not limited to general fiction, romance, mystery, science fiction/fantasy, and western, plus nonfiction on a wide range of subjects.

Because the community served by this collection is diverse, the collection must reflect a wide variety of experiences, interests, and viewpoints. Community members should be able to find books in the collection that mirror their own lives, as well as books that offer windows into the lives of people who are different from them. Not all materials may be suitable for all members of the community or for all audiences. The purchase of titles by the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries selectors does not constitute an endorsement of the ideas or opinions expressed in the content of those titles.

C. Selection Criteria

Materials will be selected based on their value in meeting the informational and recreational interests of the people in communities served by the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries consortium.

Priority will be given to popular, in-demand titles that have recent publication dates and are on topics of contemporary interest (bestsellers and new releases by popular authors, new—or newly available—titles in owned series, books recently made into movies, books in the news, etc.) Inclusion/retention of older bestsellers, classics, and all titles in a series will depend on cost, title availability, and lending models.

Factors in selection will include:

- interest,
- demand,
- timeliness,
- audience,
- diversity of viewpoint,
- appropriate formats,
- information obtained from professional and user reviews,
- lending model/price, and
- budget.

No material that meets the Consortium's selection criteria shall be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of the author or those contributing to its creation.

D. Selection Tools

Selected standard library tools such as standard collections lists, award lists, recommended/notable titles lists, and professional journal reviews will be consulted when selecting materials. Community demand will also be considered.

E. Gift Policy

Due to licensing issues, libraries cannot accept donated eBooks or downloadable audiobooks from patrons.

A patron wishing to donate funds for specific titles should discuss the possibility with their local library. That library may pursue the purchase through an Advantage account as their policy allows.

At the consortium level, Nebraska OverDrive Libraries is unable to accept gifts of money for earmarked titles. However, libraries may contribute donated funds with their annual participation fees. These funds would be spent on items purchased following this policy's selection criteria.

F. Weeding

Some publishers offer lending models that are based on time, number of checkouts, or both. Once the time has expired or the checkouts have been used, a decision must be made to either repurchase a license or to remove the item from the collection.

Expiring titles (by time or checkout) are weeded on a weekly basis using the following criteria: if there are no holds on a title, the checkouts were low in the past year, the price is prohibitive in consideration of the budget, or the publisher has withdrawn the item from further purchases.

III. Intellectual Freedom

A. Access to Collection

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries aims to provide access to a wide variety of content that patrons may choose from. The responsibility for children's use of materials and the right to guide children's values rests with their parents or legal guardians. The Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium subscribes to the principles laid out in the [ALA Freedom to Read Statement](#) and [Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#).

B. Request for Reconsideration/Material Challenges

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries recognizes that some content may be deemed controversial or considered offensive by some patrons. Anticipated approval or disapproval is not a criteria used in the selection of content, nor is the possibility that content may come into the possession of children.

If a Nebraska resident who is a patron of a participating library has concerns after reading a particular item within the collections, they should first discuss those concerns with the director of their participating library. If, after the discussion, the patron feels that there has not been a satisfactory resolution to their concerns, a [Request for Reconsideration Form](#) may be completed. Only requests from individual Nebraska patrons, not organizations, will be considered.

Within five business days, NLC staff will determine if the item being challenged is held within the consortium collection or through an Advantage library.

If the item is held by the patron's library as an Advantage library and there are no other holdings, the request will be referred to that library where local reconsideration policies will be followed.

If the item is held by the consortium or by an Advantage library (but not the patron's library) that has shared a copy with the consortium, the request will be considered by a review committee. The committee will consist of the director from the patron's library, a volunteer selector, two staff from two other participating libraries, and an NLC staff member. The committee will review the request, and read the challenged item in its entirety before responding in writing to the patron within ten weeks of receipt of the reconsideration form. If the patron submits multiple forms at the same time, a longer response time may be required. A patron may have up to five active reconsideration requests at one time.

Challenged materials will not be removed from public access while awaiting resolution of a request for reconsideration. If the item has been shared by an Advantage library (but not the patron's library), and a decision is made to remove the item from the consortium collection, that does mean that it will also be removed from the Advantage library's collection.

The decision of the Review Committee is final. A title will only be evaluated for reconsideration once within a twelve-month period.

IV. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed by Nebraska OverDrive Libraries staff every five years, or sooner if needed.

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