

Overview

Linwood Library seeks to be a catalyst in the ongoing support and creation of a vibrant community covering the Reno and Sherman townships. To do this, we state unequivocally that:

The Linwood Library is committed to Reading, Information, Space, and Entertainment (RISE) in support of a vibrant community

To support this, we adopt the following core principles.

Linwood Library RISE Core Principles

1. *READING - It is important for a vibrant community to be active, life-long readers through Life-cycle Core Fiction collections, Enhanced Technology Access, and Programs to foster print motivation.*
2. *INFORMATION - It is important for a vibrant community to have access to information that supports Local Information and Archives, Current Information, and Practical Empowerment through collections, technology and staff support.*
3. *SPACE - It is important for a vibrant community to have a shared space with the library to foster programs and services to make the district a more livable place to be.*
4. *ENTERTAINMENT - It is important for a vibrant community to remain connected to the greater world through access to high-interest and culturally significant entertainment through reasonable access to collections, technology, and programming.*

READING

It is important for a vibrant community to be active, life-long readers through Life-cycle Core Fiction collections, Targeted Genre Collections, Enhanced Technology Access, and Programs to foster print motivation.

The single most important thing libraries do every single day is to insure the present and future of reading in our local society. We hold this as an almost sacred task that focuses our efforts from the time our patrons arrive as infants through chapter books through access to in several genres through large print and access to the stories for those who are unable to read. We take this responsibility seriously and begin by understanding a library must have **Life-Cycle Access** to material that speaks to the individual and the stage of life he or she finds himself or herself. We call these the-

Life-Cycle Access Collections. They represent 65% of our budget allocation for collections and nearly 50% of our circulation. The areas we will support going forward are:

- Board Books
- Easy Readers
- Easy
- Children Audio Collections
- Juvenile (including the Della Coatney Collection)
- Young Adult
- Adult Fiction
- Adult Audio Collections
- Large Print

One of the effective ways to create a culture of reading is to insure that we have ample support in areas that promote use in specific genres that either have historically or presently long-term growth prospects for high-interest, high-use readers. Currently we call these our -

Targeted Genre Collections.

- Mystery/Thriller
- Inspirational
- SciFi/Horror

Libraries are forever trying to make sure we have materials in formats that people want to use. Currently the world is experiencing a change in “how” future generations will access the written word. While we do not subscribe to the book is dead mantra of some, we recognize that a failure to embrace new hardware and delivery systems could leave the library in a severe catch up position in serving the next wave of readers. To meet this challenge, the library has decided to provide--

Enhanced Technology Access. This will be designed to implement technologies primarily designed to support reading by helping patrons connect to the following collections and technology:

- Downloadable Audiobooks (State Collection)
- Ebooks (Sunflower and State Collection)
- Reading hardware (Kindles, Tablets, Etc)

The library must not just stop at the concept of providing access. We are responsible for an engaged strategy to encourage and facilitate reading among our constituents. We will commit to using a portion of staff time to provide -

Programs & Outreach. These will be primarily focused on the library's role in reading. And will include:

- Story Times
- Book Clubs
- Outreach Visits (Schools, Civic Groups, etc.)
- School Visits
- Author Talks
- Technology Classes designed to help patrons learn to use digital resources to support reading

Summary

The single most important thing libraries do every single day is to insure the present and future of reading in our local society. We are committed to this through Life-cycle Core Fiction collections, Targeted Genre Collections, Enhanced Technology Access, and Programs & Outreach.

INFORMATION

It is important for a vibrant community to have access to information that supports Local Information and Archives, Current Information, and Practical Empowerment through collections, technology and staff support.

We believe that Linwood Community Library can provide value to our community through these key areas:

- **Local Information and Archives**
- **Current Information**
- **Practical Empowerment**

Local Information and Archives

Almost every public library accepts the responsibility to collect and preserve local history because there is no other institution charged with this task. Without the local history collection, real history will be lost and much of it not replaceable. The following rules will be used for selection of materials to include in this local resource:

- **Materials should be collected on the city of Linwood**
- **Materials should be collection on the Sherman and Reno townships.**

In both cases, we should view this as an ongoing archive with the focus on insuring we are collecting the history we are making today for preservation of tomorrow.

Current Information

Libraries have historically been a place where people can turn to gain access to current information on the local, regional, national and international level. We provide the following paths to access current information for our patrons:

- **Internet accessed through Library Computers**
- **Magazines and Newspapers**
- **Books, particularly non-fiction titles**
- **Reference Collections**
- **Databases**

To meet the ongoing needs of our patrons to have access to Current Information we propose the following steps:

- **Increase the Library's data usage package to insure more cost effective access to the internet and insure our wireless capacity continues to grow**
- **Increase our Magazine and Newspaper subscriptions to leverage its current event advantage over traditional books**
- **Move our book collection toward a focus on Practical Empowerment**
- **Restrict our Reference Collections to things that are not done well digitally**
- **Increase teaching efforts to show people how to use the state databases**

These steps will hopefully yield a more cost effective and useful group of materials to meet our patrons need for Current Information.

Practical Empowerment

Practical Empowerment is aimed at the idea of our patrons as value conscious, financially conservative, and perhaps touched with a bit of the self-reliance that comes from living outside of mainline cities and suburbia. We have divided the subjects we currently have collections on or provide support to in Three Tiers.

Tier One

Consumer Sciences

Mechanical/Agricultural

Parenting/Research Support

Tier Two

Consumer Health

Genealogy

Government Information

Legal Forms

Outdoor Recreation

Self-Help/Relationship

Small business development and support

Tier Three

Biography

History

Literature and the Arts

Philosophy

Religious Studies

Science (mostly non-practical)

Travel

The tiers are assigned based on the library's reasonable ability to meet the needs of our patrons and the relative interest of our local area. We would assign resources as follows:

- **Tier One subjects would receive ample collection attention, dedicated staff support, and programming initiatives**
- **Tier Two subjects would receive reasonable collection attention and staff support designed to primarily facilitate the patron's ability for self help**
- **Tier Three subjects would receive basic collection support**

Summary

The library has always been a source of support for those needing information in our community. Going forward we will focus on the areas of Local Information and Archives, Current Information, and Practical Empowerment through collections, technology and staff support.

SPACE

It is important for a vibrant community to have a shared space with the library to foster programs and services to make the district a more livable place to be.

In a community that has fewer options for people to congregate, it is important that the library makes space available for the benefit of the community. It is also important to recognize that there is an impact on the core services of the library when space is shared as well. The library will be committed to insuring space is available for the following kinds of events:

- **Community meetings**
- **Educational groups or consults**
- **Locally relevant programming by community partners**

The library is also committed to providing places for information to be made available for the benefit of the community. These include:

- **Maintaining a community bulletin board**
- **Maintaining a place for locally relevant flyers to be placed for distribution**

All items placed in the library must be approved by the director and meet the guidelines that the materials be of local significance.

Finally, ongoing, semi-permanent or permanent use of space by community partners will be based on review by the Library Board and an analysis by Library staff regarding the impact on core services and benefit to the community.

Summary:

The library is committed to having a shared space with the library to foster programs and services to make the district a more livable place to be.

ENTERTAINMENT

It is important for a vibrant community to remain connected to the greater world through access to high-interest and culturally significant entertainment through reasonable access to collections, technology, and programming.

The use of the library as a source of entertainment for our patrons is important both in terms of use (roughly 50% of our reported circulation traces back to this area) and access as there are a dearth of local options for patrons to connect with the outside world owing to distance, lack of complete and affordable internet coverage of the district, and cost. To meet the needs of our patrons we provide broadly defined along the following areas:

- **High-interest materials**
- **Culturally Significant**

We believe people are more likely than ever before to want access to entertainment items they hear, see and read about. They wish to be a part of not just a local and regional conversation but a national and international conversation fostered on what they watch on TV, see at the movies, and participate with on-line. What constitutes high-interest?

- **Large Budget Movies**
- **Television Shows**
- **Social Networking Sites**
- **Video Games (for systems)**
- **Video Games (on line)**
- **On-line video portals (such as Hulu, You Tube, etc.)**

The library provides access to these items through collections and technology – primarily access to the Internet. We also provide access to Culturally Significant items including:

- **Local Interest**
- **Award winning fiction and nonfiction that are underrepresented in local area**

Libraries have long held the important job of collecting and disseminating local interest materials. Entertainment should be no different. Typically this has been hampered by the limited means available to collect, store and distribute materials. Digital advances have caused a seismic shift in this regard. Libraries should look to seek out and collect the culturally significant work that occurs around them. Likewise, a library can often be a safe harbor for materials that do not have another accessible home.

There are plenty of films, TV shows and documentaries that are produced each year. Many are not distributed online but rather through more traditional publishing means – owing to many factors. These are items that libraries can really take a hand in helping to make available for patrons. These items have a limited interest, but there may be reasonable assumption that a district like Linwood's may respond to such items.

We acknowledge that our library budget is not able to meet and meet other responsibilities. To balance the overall needs of the library with the interest in the community for entertainment, we propose the following guidelines :

- **We seek not to duplicate access to entertainment across platforms**
- **We seek to create confidence in patrons of reasonable access**

No duplicate access across platforms

Simply put, we cannot afford to “buy” entertainment on two platforms. Our investment in computers and access to the Internet means our first question when doing acquisitions is to ask “is this reasonably available online?” If the answer is yes, we most likely not seek to acquire it in what the industry refers to as “analog” form. What kinds of things would fall under this rule:

- TV Shows (many television are available on the Internet)
- Multi-Player and Arcade Style Games (again many options available on the web)
- Specialized versions of content (i.e. Blue Ray)

To translate this into a more formalized approach to providing entertainment, we would most likely do the following:

- Insure we have reasonable access to the Internet so patrons can take advantage of the items they can access there
- Heavily favor first-run, high-interest movies above other filmed entertainment as there is not a reasonably “free” option to access this kind of entertainment
- Collect videogames that present significant differences with online game options
- Collect in the format that is most widely used by users – i.e. DVD vs. Blue Ray.

We seek to create confidence in patrons of reasonable access

It is our goal that patrons develop confidence in turning to the library for access to entertainment in a timely manner. To this end, the library will do the following:

- Explore restriction access collections (walk in only and local holds)
- Put more purchases into fewer areas to create deeper collections
- Increase traffic to facilitate access to both digital and non-digital materials (i.e. increase holds traffic for Linwood patrons)

Summary

The library has historically and currently been a significant access point for users seeking entertainment options. We are committed to providing high-interest and culturally significant entertainment through reasonable access to collections, technology, and programming for our patrons.