



*Excerpt from the Collection Development Plan  
General Principles and Criteria for Selection  
Contra Costa County Library*

No single criterion is applicable to all selection decisions. Librarians apply their judgment and experience in selecting resources according to the general criteria listed below. All criteria do not apply to each selection. Works of fiction are judged differently than works of non-fiction. Works that reflect life are not necessarily excluded because of frank language. Resources are judged as a whole rather than on isolated sections. While librarians consult reviews and other evaluative sources, demand will take precedent. These general criteria apply to all age-levels and formats. The sequence of these criteria is not an indication of their relative importance.

Relevance to diverse populations  
Current and historical significance/document of the times  
Critical praise/notice/literary merit  
Usefulness  
Appropriateness of format  
Availability of resource in other libraries  
Space and budgetary considerations  
Reputation/importance of the author/artist  
Objectivity  
Collection balance/minority point of view  
Value of resource in relation to cost  
Local interest (subject, author, publisher)  
Relationship to the existing collection  
Currency of information  
Permanent value as standard work  
Readability/appropriateness for audience