

CBISL Collection Development Policy

Approved and implemented: 09/07/2023

Purpose:

The purpose of this collection is to support Congregation B'nai Israel and secondarily the Sacramento area Jewish community at large with materials relevant to a Jewish education and to provide a circulating library of Jewish materials for entertainment and life enrichment. Educational materials will be primarily relevant to Reform Jewish study at the discretion of the Senior Rabbi, the librarian, the library committee, and the Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning.

Materials must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Jewish content and/or authorship
- Israeli content and/or authorship
- Supplemental materials aiding established courses of study at the synagogue
- Author is a member of Congregation B'nai Israel.

Materials added to the collection should be:

- generally received well in well-respected Jewish and/or Israeli publications. Secondary consideration if it is received well in prominent and well-respected non-Jewish publications.
- favorable reviews in standard review sources and/or favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of material by professional personnel.

Top sources include Jewish Book Council, Jewish Book World, The New York Times booklist, Association of Jewish Libraries award winners, Sydney Taylor Awards

Considerations for materials acquisition include:

- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- An additional focus on voices which are undersaturated in the existing collection
- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Cost
- Importance as a document of the times

- Relation to the existing collection and to other materials on the subject
- Potential user appeal
- Requests by library patrons
- Physical space allocation on the shelf

Content Criteria:

- Authority
- Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
- Skill, competence, and purpose of the author
- Reputation and significance of the author
- Objectivity
- Consideration of the work as a whole
- Clarity
- Publication date and continued relevance
- Technical quality
- Representation of diverse points of view
- Representation of important movements, genres, or trends
- Vitality and originality
- Artistic presentation and/or experimentation
- Sustained interest
- Relevance and use of the information
- Effective characterization
- Authenticity of historic or social setting

Children's Room

The Children's Room collection should:

- Support and enrich the curriculum of religious school and/or students' personal interests and learning
- Meet high standards in literary, artistic, and aesthetic quality; technical aspects; and physical format
- Be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social, emotional, and intellectual development of the students for whom the materials are selected
- Incorporate accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources
- Earn favorable reviews in standard reviewing sources and/or favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel.
- Exhibit a high degree of potential user appeal and interest
- Demonstrate physical format, appearance, and durability suitable to their intended use

- Balance cost with need

Further consideration:

- Books/authorship which are neither Jewish nor Israeli nor temple members but which are present to support an established course of study at the synagogue may not at any point comprise more than 5% of the total collection.
- Acquisition of an item does not imply endorsement of the author's views.
- The library is not obligated to include materials which advocate harm -- to our communities or others.

Reconsideration Policy:

- If a book comes to attention as being potentially unsuitable for the collection, a reconsideration request can be provided upon request. Please send the request to library@bnais.com. The decision will be made by the librarian, the library committee, the Senior Rabbi, and the Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning. The individual who requested the reconsideration will be informed of the decision within 6 months.

Weeding policy:

- The Sosnick Library is a circulating library and occasionally materials must be weeded from the collection for a variety of reasons. Materials may be removed due to damage, being outdated, disuse, factual inaccuracy, or violation of our collective vision/mission. This will be done at the discretion of the librarian and secondarily the library committee, the Senior Rabbi, and the Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning .