



Your Collection at The Seattle Public Library

We create and share high quality collections for Seattle's communities.

Reflect and
celebrate
Seattle

Something
for
everyone

Inform,
entertain and
enrich



**Freedom to
read, watch
and listen**

Access
for all

Equity,
diversity and
inclusion

Convenient
and easy
to use

**Our collections reflect current trends, changing
community interests and diverse viewpoints.**



Discover stories, ideas and information at your Seattle Public Library. Access our collection of over 2 million items at 26 neighborhood locations, the Central Library and www.spl.org. You will also see us around town in the Bookmobile, at local events and community centers.

Books, movies, music, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, e-books, streaming media, hotspots, databases, language-learning and much more.

The Collection

The collection reflects the interests and needs of Seattle's diverse cultures and communities. Materials are collected in the languages most commonly spoken in Seattle. A commitment to quality, relevance, value and equity shape the collection.

Building the Collection

Librarians are dedicated to selecting the books, movies and music you discover at your Library. When reviewing titles for the collection we consider: local interest, current events, diverse viewpoints, author, artist, creator, availability, publisher, topic, suitability of format for library checkout, price, accuracy, audience, support of library programs, reviews, and historical significance. This is your Library and you contribute to the collection by making suggestions.

Maintaining the Collection

We manage the collection to ensure it is dynamic, responsive and appealing. Items that are worn, damaged or outdated are removed. We also take into consideration changing community needs, collection demand and use, a wide-range of data, industry standards, budgetary impacts and strategic priorities. Materials of local historical value are preserved to tell the story of Seattle and its people.

Accessing the Collection

We strive to make the collection easy to access and use. We offer free Library cards for Seattle residents, collect many formats that are made available across the city and online, distribute materials efficiently and create simple, intuitive systems that help you locate, explore and discover resources. We also provide services to enable successful use of the collection, collaborate with partners to expand offerings and promote reading and life-long learning.

Your Right to Read, Watch and Listen

The Library resists censorship – everyone has the right to read, watch and listen. Intellectual freedom protects your right to access a wide variety of materials even if the content may be controversial or unacceptable to others. All ages can access the entire collection. Parents and guardians may help their kids choose books and videos that are consistent with their values. Library staff are available to help find materials that fit the needs of every patron.

We receive funds for building our collection from the City of Seattle general fund and Library Levy funds, with additional support from the Seattle Public Library Foundation and The Friends of The Seattle Public Library.