Wallkill Public Library Collection Development Policy

1. **Introduction**: The Collection Development Policy of Wallkill Public Library outlines the principles, guidelines, and procedures governing the acquisition, management, and maintenance of library materials to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. This policy aims to ensure a balanced and diverse collection that reflects the interests and preferences of the library's users.

2. **Purpose**: The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the systematic development, assessment, and maintenance of the library's collection, including books, audiovisual materials, electronic resources, and other formats, while adhering to the library's mission, goals, and budget constraints.

3. **Selection Criteria**: Materials will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to community needs and interests
- Accuracy, authority, and currency of information
- Quality of content and artistic expression
- Inclusion of diverse perspectives and voices
- Support of educational and lifelong learning goals
- Anticipated demand and popularity
- Physical and electronic format availability
- Cost and budget considerations

Wallkill Public Library's professional staff chooses books and other materials to meet the informational, educational and recreational reading needs of the citizens of the community. The staff is guided by the Collection Development Policy adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Library. The Trustees and staff support the belief that the right to read and the right to free access to library collections for persons of all ages are essential to the individual's freedom of thought, which is fundamental to democracy. The Trustees have also adopted the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement and the Freedom to View Statement, which represent the library's interpretation of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In practice, this means that the library will resist efforts to remove or censor materials.

4. **Responsibility**: The ultimate responsibility for collection development rests with the Library Director. However, collection development decisions will be made collaboratively, involving librarians, subject specialists, and user feedback. Input from the community, including patrons, local organizations, and educators, will be actively sought and considered.

5. **Collection Maintenance**: Regular weeding and evaluation of the collection will be conducted to ensure its relevance, accuracy, and condition. Materials that are outdated, inaccurate, or damaged will be withdrawn, and consideration will be given to evolving formats and emerging technologies.

Approved by the board 1/6/2025

6. **Intellectual Freedom**: Wallkill Public Library is committed to intellectual freedom and supports access to a wide range of ideas and information. The library will not censor or remove materials solely based on personal, political, or religious viewpoints. Complaints or concerns about specific materials will be addressed through a formal reconsideration process (see attached Request for Reconsideration form).

7. **Budget Allocation**: The library's budget for collection development will be allocated based on the library's strategic priorities and the needs of the community. Efforts will be made to allocate funds across various formats and subject areas to maintain a well-rounded collection.

8. **Acquisitions Process**: Materials will be acquired through a combination of purchasing, donations, and partnerships. Selection will be informed by professional reviews, user recommendations, subject expertise, and community input. The library welcomes gifts of books and other materials *if/when shelf space allows*, with the understanding that they will be evaluated in accordance with the same criteria applied to purchased materials. Gifts are accepted with the understanding that if the library cannot use them, the director may consider other alternatives.

9. **Collection Diversity**: The library is committed to providing a collection that represents the diversity of its community. Efforts will be made to acquire materials that reflect a variety of cultures, perspectives, languages, and formats to ensure inclusivity and representation.

10. **Electronic Resources**: The library will provide access to a wide range of electronic resources, including databases, e-books, e-journals, and multimedia materials. Selection and licensing of electronic resources will adhere to copyright laws and licensing agreements.

11. **Review and Evaluation**: This Collection Development Policy will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure its alignment with the evolving needs of the community and advancements in information technology.

12. **Disposal of Materials**: Materials that are withdrawn from the collection will be disposed of responsibly, adhering to ethical and environmental considerations.

13. **Implementation and Communication**: This policy will be communicated to library staff, users, and stakeholders through the library's website, print materials, and public forums. The policy will guide the day-to-day operations of collection development and management.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on [01/06/2025].