

Stirling Council Libraries aim to provide a balanced selection of stock over the Stirling Council area, with individual libraries reflecting the needs of their local communities. The acquisition and evaluation of materials will be done in line with the ethical principles of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals reflecting impartiality and avoidance of inappropriate bias.

We aim to do this as cost-effectively as possible, by making use of the range of expertise of staff, by being flexible in a changing market place and by making use of developments in technology as appropriate.

This allows us to

- Promote reading and literacy
- Support participation in lifelong learning
- Promote the use of information and an awareness of its value
- Develop an appreciation of, and foster pride in, our local and national cultural heritage

Stock is defined as being all the materials; printed, non-printed and electronic, acquired by Stirling Council Library Service to meet the needs of the community it serves.

General Principles

The following points will be considered during all stock selection:

Quality – merits of author, series, reputable publisher, estimated shelf life, readability, binding

Presentation – paper quality, typography, illustrations

Currency – current affairs, new edition, accurate and comprehensive contents

Relevance – fluctuating demands, topical interest, balanced stock, specific and known demands, needs and interest of community, best in field, stock gap

Format – a variety of formats will be purchased, e. g. hardback, paperback, spoken word, electronic. Some formats are inappropriate for library use and will not be purchased.

Cost – value for money

Popularity – best-sellers, reviews, reader requests

Existing stock

All stock is bought for the library service as a whole and distributed or rotated as appropriate.

Stirling Council Libraries are members of the Scotland Excel Contract which is a national procurement agreement based on cost and quality of service, ensuring that we get best value for our customers.

Request buying

Titles bought as a result of readers' requests are at the discretion of the Community Librarian or Community Library Officer of the library concerned in line with the general principles listed above.

Replacements for lost or damaged items

Lost and damaged items are charged for. We are not allowed to accept replacement copies purchased by borrowers as we are bound by purchasing contracts.

Donations

Only donations of Local History material are accepted. (See Donations Policy)

Archives has its own Acquisitions Policy and this is available on request.

Withdrawal policy

Items are withdrawn from stock

- when the physical condition is not suitable for lending
- if the material is out-of-date and inaccurate
- if it has not been loaned for a specified length of time

We do not withdraw items on demand.

Withdrawn items are either sold in libraries or are collected by a community interest company who trade in used books to help people, charities and our environment. Items of value, if no longer required, will be sold off to charity.