



City of Abilene

Library Advisory Board Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board of the City of Abilene to be held on February 6, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Council Chambers, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES

1. **Minutes:** Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on November 7, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA ITEMS

2. Library Director's Report
 - A. On-order review catalog
 - B. Restricted Access Juvenile Card
3. Review on-order catalog comments and make a recommendation to Library Director on pending book orders (discussion and possible action).
4. Review updated Collection Development Policy (discussion and possible action).
5. Active reconsideration requests (discussion).
6. Receive a report from the review committee and make a recommendation to City Administration on reconsideration of library materials requests received by the board through September 30, 2022 (discussion and possible action).

ADJOURNMENT

Notice

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 2nd day of February, 2023, at 4:05 p.m.

*Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City
Secretary, TRMC*

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2022
Regular Board Meeting

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met at the City Council Chambers at 4:00 PM, Monday, November 7, 2022. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Clint Buck (Chair), Dorothy Davidson, Denise Moore, Tim de la Vega,
Joe Specht, Elizabeth Norman, Judith Phaneuf

Board Members Absent: None

Also Attending: Julee Hatton, Library Director; Trent Dietz, Assistant City Attorney;
Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant

Media present: Bryan Bethel, Abilene Reporter-News; Noah McKenny, KTAB News,
Patrick Fogle, Protect ABI Families

Mr. Clint Buck called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. First motion to approve from Elizabeth Norman; Denise Moore seconded the motion. No objections, conversations, or adjustments made; minutes accepted as presented.

Mr. Buck opened the public comment period. The following individuals addressed the Advisory Board:

- Tammy Fogle : Opened with a prayer to protect the minors.
- Eric Bengs: Read excerpts from two (2) books, “The Bluest Eye” and “The Handmaid's Tale” graphic novel, said not appropriate for YA or any child.
- Carolyn Walden: Here to defend the innocent from moral danger.
- Samuel Britton: Quoted a bible verse.
- Charles Byrn: Asking the board to make the right decision on books for the children.
- Diana Heartman: Book “Monday’s Not Coming” not appropriate for our children.
- Karen Light: Book, “Sold,” on sex trafficking not appropriate for children or library.
- Andreelynn Stephens: Quoted from the bible, also quoted the 1st amendment rights.
- Cathy Johnson: Quoted the bible, evil good and good evil it’s a matter of the heart.
- Cheryl Sawyers: Having a group of people preach one specific part of religion and morality does not speak for the entire whole of Abilene; quoted 1st amendment.
- Francisca Rodriguez: Asks all civic leaders to stand with them in truth.
- Carlos Quiñones: Up to us to guide our children in the right path
- Ryan Goodwin: Wants the Holy Spirit to guide the board members on their recommendations to the city.
- James Sargent: Quoted the 10th amendment, protect our children, take a stand and give the power to the people.
- Jay Miller: Be cautious with what you do in making these decisions.

- Dee Dee Turney: Provide good healthy, wholesome books,
- Christina Batten: Let Abilenians be balanced in mercy and justice that they come in.
- Matty Simpson: Hope our hearts grow 10 times for the children of our community.
- Patrick Batten: Stand up for our kids and do the right thing.
- Rebecca Gingrich: Quoted the 1st amendment, It's about our community standards. City council needs to review all policies.

With no other speakers coming forward, the public comment period was closed.

Director's Report: Ms. Hatton reported on library statistics from Fiscal Year 2022. There was an increase from the previous year in reference questions, library visit total increased to 324,205, around 70,000 people more than last year. There were 5,548 study room visits, 9,147 attendees in the meeting room visits, 436 events held, 354,398 Items physical items circulated, 6,000 new library cards issued, 28,000 public Internet sessions, and 14,000 volunteer hours, this does not include the digital items and is the totals for all three (3) library locations. This is a preview of the annual report to come.

Ms. Hatton also reported on the kids catalog stating it's a new catalog that has been launched on our current catalog site that includes subjects with large graphics to make it kid-friendly in use. A special thanks goes to the Abilene Library Consortium for working with us to set this up and get it running. It only searches items within the current collection that are classified as juvenile and owned by the public library. It will still have all the account features as the normal catalog, but just in a new area. No Hoopla or Overdrive titles will be available through this catalog.

Special Review Committee Report: Mr. Buck read the entire Special Review Committee Recommendation report as follows;

*SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION*

November 7, 2022

The Abilene Public Library received 30 reconsideration requests between August 21, 2022, and October 1, 2022. Any reconsideration requests received on or after October 1, 2022, and on or before December 1, 2022, will be processed and a recommendation presented at the next quarterly library meeting. As a reminder, any book subject to an open Reconsideration Request is pulled from the shelves of the Abilene Public Library pending final action by the Abilene City Manager.

These 30 reconsideration requests were submitted by six (6) individuals. Four (4) reconsideration requests duplicated another petitioner's request. Therefore, this Recommendation addresses 26 titles.

PREAMBLE.

The Abilene Public Library strives to meet the various needs of all its residents. It is the duty of the

Abilene Public Library Director and staff, this Special Review Committee, the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board, and the City Manager to apply the stated goals approved and adopted by the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board.

Material that may meet one or more resident's needs may be contrary to the sensibilities of other residents. Such is the nature of all communities.

The library does not and cannot place the needs of one individual or group of individuals over another individual or group of individuals. The library strives to provide adequate resources to meet the needs of all its citizens.

The library supports the right of the individual to access information, no matter if it may be considered controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others. Abilene is home to a diverse citizenry reflecting a broad range of perspectives, ideas, and needs. The current collection reflects the dignity, viewpoints, needs and interests of our citizens in accordance with the overall demographics of the City of Abilene, not just a perceived majority.

RECITATION OF FACTS.

The Special Review Committee comprised of Clint Buck, Joe Specht, and Denise Moore conducted five (5) meetings to meet with four (4) individual petitioners. Two (2) petitioners elected not to meet in person, and one petitioner met with the Committee on two (2) separate occasions. These meetings were held at the Main Library on the following dates and times:

- Friday, September 23, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.;*
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.;*
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.;*
- Monday, October 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.; and*
- Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.*

Julee Hatton, Director of Library Services, was also in attendance at each of these meetings.

Petitioner's requests for the reconsidered titles varied from removing a book from the shelves of the Abilene Public Library to reclassifying the book (i.e. moving a Young Adult Fiction book into Adult Fiction) to creating a specially segregated section for books specifically identified by petitioner. Two (2) petitioners wanted the book "Sold" by Patricia McCormick to be removed from the Abilene Public Library.

A prevalent theme from all four (4) of the petitioners with whom the Committee met in person was that of "inadvertent discovery" — that a minor library patron would accidentally stumble upon a book containing undesirable content and/or images deemed offensive by the patron or patron's parent or guardian. This theme was consistently, and clearly communicated by each of the four (4) petitioners who met with the Committee and the Committee kept this concern in mind while conducting its review.

The import of submitting a Reconsideration Request cannot be overstated. Asking a public library dedicated to serving all its residents to reconsider a book is a monumental request. In essence, a petitioner is purporting to know and/or believe his or her rights and/or beliefs carry more weight than another citizen's rights and beliefs. So, Reconsideration Requests must weigh heavy on each petitioner as each request weighs heavy on the Special Review Committee, the Library Advisory Board, and the City Manager.

Of the 26 books subject to recommendation today, the six (6) petitioners collectively read, in their entirety, six (6) of the books. As a result, petitioners were, by and large, unable to articulate any contextual understanding for the sentences and/or snippets they relied on in their respective reconsideration requests.

The members of the Special Review Committee endeavored to consider each title in its entirety. The Special Review Committee focused its attention on the 14 physical books owned by the Abilene Public Library.

The Abilene Public Library exists to "provide materials, services, and programming to help community residents obtain information which meets their personal, educational, professional and recreational needs". The foregoing statement is in accordance with the policies last approved and adopted by the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board on August 1, 2016, specifically referencing the Collection Development Policy, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement and the Freedom to View Statement (all of which are available to the public on the City of Abilene website).

RECOMMENDATION.

We recommend the following young adult books be reclassified into the corresponding adult section:

- *A five (5) book series called A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas, including two (2) titles specifically subject to a reconsideration request: A Court of Thorns and Roses and A Court of Frost and Starlight;*
- *Damsel; and*
- *Flamer*

We believe the following juvenile and young adult books are shelved appropriately within the APL collection and, therefore, recommend no action on the following books:

- *The Moon Within;*
- *Foul is Fair;*
- *Sold; and*
- *Yolk*

The following books are exclusively available in an electronic format. In other words, there are no physical books for these titles housed in the Abilene Public Library. The absence of an actual physical book effectively eliminates any chance for a child in the library to inadvertently stumble across it.

Additionally, the Abilene Public Library is developing a library card (hereinafter, the "Restricted Access Juvenile Card") that would restrict these electronic titles, among others, from being checked out. The Restricted Access Card will be elective for parents or guardians of minor children.

Therefore, we recommend no action on the following titles considering the absence of physical access to these titles, along with the future rollout of the Restricted Access Juvenile Card:

- *My Body is Growing: A Guide for Children Ages 4 to 8;*
- *Bumped;*
- *Burned;*
- *Crank;*
- *Lawn Boy; and*
- *What Girls Are Made Of.*

We believe the following adult fiction books, adult nonfiction books and/or audiobooks are shelved or categorized appropriately within the APL collection and, therefore, recommend no action on the following books:

- *The Bluest Eye (abridged audiobook);*
- *All Boys Aren't Blue: a memoir-manifesto;*
- *This Book is Gay;*
- *Kite Runner;*
- *Slaughterhouse Five; and*
- *Queer: A Graphic History*

We recommend the following adult graphic novel be relocated from the adult graphic novel section at the Mockingbird Branch to the adult graphic novel section at the Main Library:

- *Handmaid's Tale (Graphic Novel).*

During our in-person meeting, the petitioner agreed the following adult books were appropriately shelved in the adult section and, therefore, requested no action. We, therefore, recommend no action be taken on the following titles:

- *Red Hood;*
- *Red, White and Royal Blue; and*
- *You Too?*

Two (2) Reconsideration Requests were for books not owned or proffered by the Abilene Public Library and, therefore, no action is necessary:

- *Lolita; and*
- *Two Boys Kissing.*

That is the commendation for the special review committee, motion to approve from Mr. Specht a second is not required. Mr. Buck opened the table for discussion. Mr. de la Vega asked to review the juvenile and young adult books: the Moon Within; Foul is Fair; Sold; and Yolk before voting, Mr. Specht withdrew his motion, Mr. de la Vega made a motion to table with a second by Mr. Specht. Vote was taken with six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Moore). The motion passed and this recommendation was tabled for a meeting at a later date.

Meeting adjourned: 5:12 p.m.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is February 6th, 2023, at 4:00 PM, City Hall 555 Walnut St. 2nd floor, Council Chambers

Clint Buck, Chair

Linda Camacho

Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant

Abilene Public Library

Collection Development Policy

Purpose of Collection Development Policy

The collection development policy is intended to provide guidance, within budgetary and space limitations, for the selection and evaluation of materials which anticipate and meet the diverse needs and interests of the Abilene community. It directly relates the collection to the Library's mission statement and defines the scope and standards of the various collections.

As the community changes, the Abilene Public Library (APL) reassesses and adapts its collections to reflect new and differing areas of interest and concern. The collection development policy is regularly evaluated and revised as necessary to provide guidance for implementing changes in the collection.

Mission Statement

The Abilene Public Library provides materials, services, and programs to help community residents obtain information which meets their personal, educational, professional, and recreational needs.

Philosophy of Selection

All library materials added to the Abilene Public Library collection must be considered to be lawful according to applicable federal, state, and local laws. This collection policy follows the restrictions outlined in City Council Resolution No. 226-2022, which strictly prohibits "obscene" and "harmful material" and performance at the Abilene Public Library. The terms "obscene" and "harmful material" are defined by the Texas Penal Code Sections 43.21 and 43.24.

The library upholds the right of the individual to secure information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. A balanced collection attempts to represent all sides of controversial issues as far as availability of materials, space, and budget allow. Selection is based upon criteria stated in this policy. Library materials present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy.

All public libraries contain materials that some persons may find objectionable. Libraries may omit from the collection materials that some patrons feel are important. In either case, Abilene Public Library has procedures that patrons may use in reconsidering or recommending library materials. Selection of materials does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content, viewpoint, implications, or presentation of the materials.

Scope of the Collection

The primary responsibility of the Abilene Public Library is to serve the residents of the City of Abilene by providing a broad choice of materials to meet their informational, educational, professional, and recreational needs.

The Abilene Public Library is a member of the Abilene Library Consortium (ALC). One of the many benefits of APL being an ALC member is that APL cardholders may borrow library materials from other ALC member libraries and have them delivered to the library of their choice. APL is currently the only public library member of the ALC.

Scope of the Main Library

The Main Library serves the Abilene community as a whole, in addition to serving as a resource for the Mockingbird and South branch libraries. A broad choice of circulating print and non-print materials is selected to accommodate the diversity of tastes, reading levels, and interests of users of all ages. The Abilene Public Library has two special collections housed at the Main Library: the Texas Collection and the Genealogy Collection.

Scholarly and highly technical or specialized materials are not acquired but are made available through other libraries with strong collections, either through other Abilene Library Consortium libraries or through Interlibrary Loan.

Scope of the Branch Libraries

Abilene Public Library has two branch libraries, Mockingbird and South. The interests and needs of users of the branches will be regularly evaluated so that each library has a collection reflecting the community that it serves. Branches do not duplicate the in-depth sources or special collections of the Main Library. Branch collections are designed to serve the current, high interest needs of library users.

Responsibility for Selection

The authority and responsibility of the selection of library materials rests ultimately with the Director of Library Services. Selection may be delegated by the Director to the Technical Services Manager. The Technical Services Manager is responsible for the oversight of selection of APL materials. Selection duties may be assigned to professional collection development librarians who are fully trained in APL collection development policies and procedures. Trained non-professional staff may assist librarians with ordering as needed, but do not select materials themselves. The Technical Services Manager is responsible for reviewing selections both before orders are processed and after materials are received. All materials added to the collection must not be “obscene” or “harmful material” according to Texas Penal Code sections 43.21 and 43.24 as outlined in City Council Resolution No. 226-2022.

Selection decisions are made within the limitations of available space and funding, and within the scope of this written collection development policy. Materials will be selected based upon

their value as a whole. Selection presumes liberty of thought and intellectual freedom within the bounds of reason and applicable federal, state, and local law.

Selection Criteria

All materials, whether purchased or donated, are evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria listed below. An item need not meet all of these criteria in order to be acceptable.

General Criteria:

- Legality according to federal, state, and local laws
- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- 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
- Attention by critics and reviewers
- Potential user appeal
- Requests by library users

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
- Currency
- 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 history or social setting

Special Considerations for Electronic Information Sources:

- Ease of use of the product
- Availability of the information to multiple simultaneous users
- Equipment needed to provide access to the information
- Technical support and training
- Available in full text
- Available in multiple languages

Top Five Recommended Public Library Reviewing Sources:

- Booklist
- Goodreads
- New York Times Book Review
- Publishers Weekly
- Shelf Awareness

Suggestions for Purchase

Abilene Public Library strongly encourages input from the community concerning the collection. A suggestion for purchase procedure enables Abilene residents to request that a particular item or subject be purchased. All suggestions for purchase are subject to the same selection criteria as other materials and are not automatically added to the collection. It is the library's intent that suggestions for purchase be used to help APL in developing collections which serve the interests and needs of the community.

Gifts and Donations

The Abilene Public Library accepts gifts of books, magazines, and audiovisual materials. A receipt for tax purposes will be given to the donor if requested at the time the donation is made. Staff providing the receipt will not place a value on the donation.

Donated items must meet the Library's criteria for collection development before being added to the collection. Gift materials which do not meet those standards may be given to the Friends of the Abilene Public Library, for use in their book sales, or discarded. Whenever a gift is no longer needed or useful, it will be disposed of in the same manner as purchased materials.

Requests for Reconsideration

Any Abilene resident has the right to express concerns about library materials and expect to have the objection taken seriously. Those wishing to recommend the removal or reclassification of a particular item in the APL collection are encouraged to discuss their concerns with a library manager. If the person is not satisfied with the response to their informal request, the manager will provide the person with information about how to make a formal request for reconsideration.

Persons wishing to formally recommend the removal or reclassification of an item in the Abilene Public Library collection must follow the following procedure:

- A person submitting a reconsideration request must:
 - Reside within the city limits of Abilene, Texas; and
 - Hold a valid Abilene Public Library adult resident card in good standing.
- They must fill out the “Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials” form in its entirety and also sign the form. The form may be either printed or filled out electronically. Both versions are available on the library website. Any incomplete or unsigned forms will not be processed.
- If using the paper form, the person must return the completed and signed form to the Director of Library Services.
 - The printed form may be dropped off at any APL location during hours of operation, or mailed to the Director of Library Services at 202 Cedar Street, Abilene Public Library, Abilene TX 79601.
- If using the online form, the form will automatically be electronically submitted to the Director of Library Services.
- Upon receipt of the Request, the Director of Library Services will reply to the person within seven (7) business days of receipt, confirming receipt of the Request (either electronically or in paper) and outlining the reconsideration procedure. If the Request is incomplete, the Director of Library Services will notify the person to complete the form and return it. If they fail to return the completed form within 30 days, the person’s Request for Reconsideration will be deemed withdrawn and no further action on the Request will be taken.
- Multiple requests for reconsideration of the same item will be combined as a single request.
- Copies of the completed request and any relevant material will be sent to the Library Advisory Board Chair and the City Manager.
- While the item is under review, it will be temporarily removed from the shelves, but the item will not be temporarily removed for a period of more than 90 days during the reconsideration process pending final decision.
- The Library Advisory Board has a standing committee consisting of three board members for the review of reconsideration requests.
 - The Director of Library Services will provide a packet of information about the item and a copy of the reconsideration request to the review committee.
 - Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the packet, the review committee will meet regarding the reconsideration request and the item in question, in light of the library's mission statement, philosophy and the selection criteria of this collection development policy. The item will be reconsidered in its entirety, not in part..

- o The person requesting reconsideration may be invited to speak to the review committee.
- o The Library Advisory Board grants the review committee the authority in a reconsideration request to make one of the following recommendations:
 - Retain the material with no changes, or;
 - Relocate the item to a different library, or;
 - Reclassify the material, or;
 - Remove the material.
- The committee will make its recommendation about the item to the Library Advisory Board at its next regular meeting, or special called meeting, if necessary.
- The person requesting reconsideration will be notified of the board meeting at which their request will be addressed.
 - o Multiple requests for reconsideration may be addressed in the committee's recommendation to the board.
- After the committee presents its recommendation at the board meeting, the Library Advisory Board will have the opportunity to take public action on the committee's recommendation.
- Once the board takes action, its recommendation will be sent to the City Manager.
- Within thirty (30) days of the board's recommendation, the City Manager will make the final decision regarding the item under reconsideration.
- The Director of Library Services will follow the decision given by the City Manager.
- The person will be notified of the City Manager's decision within seven (7) business days.
- An item that has been reconsidered may not be the subject of a further Request for Reconsideration for a period of one (1) year following the City Manager's decision.

Collection Maintenance

In addition to acquiring new materials, it is important to remove from the existing collection those items no longer deemed useful or relevant. This policy provides authority for the systematic and regular evaluation of the existing collection and subsequent withdrawal of worn, obsolete or infrequently used materials and supports the public's right of access to an appealing and relevant collection.

Library collection development staff systematically review the collection with the goal of maintaining the quality and vitality of library resources. This process of collection analysis incorporates the use of circulation reports and other statistical information obtained from the library's Integrated Library System (ILS) for continuous collection evaluation. The current ILS is SirsiDynix Symphony, which is operated by the Abilene Library Consortium.

Weeding Evaluation Criteria

Weeding in this context is defined as the process of evaluating a book to determine if it will be retained, relocated, or replaced. Selection of materials for discarding is based on the CREW method. The CREW complete manual is available through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) website: Crew: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries (<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/>)

CREW

- Continuous
- Review
- Evaluation
- Weeding

This system uses the acronym, MUSTIE, to help evaluate an item for withdrawal:

- Misleading and/or factually inaccurate
- Ugly (worn out beyond mending or rebinding)
- Superseded by a new edition or a better source
- Trivial (of no discernible literary or scientific merit)
- Irrelevant to the needs and interest of your community
- Elsewhere (the material may be easily borrowed from another source)

Replacement Criteria

While the library attempts to have copies of standard and important works, it does not automatically replace all materials withdrawn. The same criteria that apply to original selection also apply to replacements. The need for replacement is based on:

- The number of duplicate copies
- Existence of adequate coverage of the subject in the collection
- Demand for the specific title or subject area
- Availability of material

Removal of Withdrawn Material

Materials that no longer meet the stated objectives of the library will be withdrawn from the system. This policy allows the library to determine how materials are removed and where they are sent after removal from the library's catalog.

Duplication of Material

Multiple copies of materials are purchased in response to user demand as evidenced by number of reserves, anticipated popularity, repeated requests and monitoring of the collection. For popular fiction and non-fiction titles, APL attempts to maintain a holds ratio (i.e. for every 5 holds on a title, another copy is purchased) as allowed by budget constraints.

Main Library Collections

The Abilene Public Library has two special collections: the Texas Collection and the Genealogy Collection. Both are housed at the Main Library location. Both special collections are available to the public during regular operating hours. The Texas and Genealogy Collections both continue to grow and expand with additional local and family histories being acquired regularly. Some of the same print resources located in the Library can also be viewed online on the Portal to Texas History (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/>).

Genealogy Collection

The Genealogy Collection contains materials relevant to historians and genealogists. It contains family histories, Abilene City Directories, annuals, indexes, and other historical information. The collection is primarily focused on materials pertaining to Abilene and Taylor County, but offers some materials about other cities and states in order to meet the needs of Abilene residents and researchers from other areas. Formats include print, maps, microfilm, and digital.

Texas Collection

Texas Collection materials are purchased with an emphasis on the geographic area of Abilene and Taylor County. Some materials from other Texas counties and cities can also be found in the Texas Collection. Multiple copies of books by Taylor County authors may be collected. All print materials are limited to library use only.

Branch & Main Library Collections

Adult Fiction

The Abilene Public Library's fiction collection includes a wide variety of contemporary works of fiction representing all genres, classics, and important novels of the past. The Library makes every effort to acquire fiction which is representative of the cultural and ethnic community that it serves and to satisfy the diversity of interests and recreational needs of its users. Formats include print, graphic novels, and digital.

Adult Non-Fiction

All locations contain an adult non-fiction collection, with the largest being housed at the Main Library.

The library selects non-fiction materials which:

- address contemporary issues
- provide self-help information
- facilitate continuing education
- enhance job-related knowledge and skills
- increase knowledge of affairs of the community, the country, and the world
- support business, cultural, recreational and civic interests in the community
- nourish intellectual, aesthetic, creative and spiritual growth
- present different viewpoints on issues

Audiobooks

The audiobook collection contains sound recordings of fiction and nonfiction books, poetry and drama, language instruction, and other subjects, based on current demand. Emphasis is on acquiring unabridged works whenever possible. Formats include audio CDs and digital.

Children's Collection

To encourage life-long reading habits, the goal of the children's collection is to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of Abilene children from infancy through age 12. The children's collection also serves their parents, legal guardians, teachers, and caregivers, as many books in this collection are intended to be read together. Materials are selected with regard to appropriateness for the stages of emotional and intellectual maturity of children, in addition to reading level.

Children's Collection Classifications

E: Early Childhood

Intended audience: Ages 0-6

Includes picture books, early readers, and graphic novels.

Intended to be read together with an adult.

Tend to have less than 40 pages.

J: Juvenile

Intended audience: Ages 6-12

Includes fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels

Intended either to be read independently or read together with an adult.

Tend to have more than 40 pages and contain chapters.

Children's Collection Formats

All learning styles are supported through a variety of formats in the Children's Collection, including print, audiobooks, and WonderBooks.

PB CHILD (paperback format)

Board Books

Intended audience: Ages 0-3

Intended to be read to a child

Paperback Books

Intended audience: Ages 6-12

Intended either to be read independently or read together with an adult.

GN (graphic novel format)

Graphic Novel is not a genre but a type of print format that is similar to a comic book.

GN E

Intended audience: Ages 0-6

Intended to be read together with an adult.

GN J:

Intended audience: Ages 6-12

Intended either to be read independently or read together with an adult.

Electronic Databases

Online databases extend the collection by providing timely and versatile access to information in electronic format. Databases are used by the library staff to enhance and supplement reference service. Many of the databases contain specialized information beyond the scope of the library's print collections; others have information that does not exist in print format.

E-Resources

Digital versions of nonfiction, fiction, reference, video, audiobooks, and music are all offered by the Abilene Public Library. The content criteria outlined in each of those sections apply, as appropriate, to their electronic counterparts.

Periodical Collection

The goal of the periodical collection is to meet the recreational and informational reading needs of the community. Newspapers and magazines are selected based on their breadth of coverage and fulfillment of entertainment and/or informational needs. The largest collection of magazines and newspapers is held at the Main Library while the branches have smaller collections. The collection includes newspapers published locally as well as from other geographical areas of interest to the community. Formats include print, microfilm, and digital.

Reference Collection

APL maintains a reference collection to serve the informational needs of library users. Some reference materials are still purchased in print, but a higher percentage of materials are now available online through database subscriptions. The reference collection is focused on providing up-to-date information on a diverse field of subjects that is suitable for general research needs. If necessary, scholarly-level research requests are referred to the universities in the Abilene Library Consortium. All print reference materials are for in-house use only.

Videos

APL collects videos to meet the educational and recreational needs of adults and children. The collection consists of popular feature films, television movies and shows as well as documentaries, instructional, and educational films. Formats include DVD, Blu-ray, and digital.

Young Adult Collection

The young adult (YA) collection contains materials intended for ages 13 to 17. It is intended to be a transitional collection for the reader moving from the children's collection to the adult collection. The young adult collection consists of fiction books of popular and contemporary interest. Materials are selected with regard to appropriateness for the stages of emotional and intellectual maturity of young adults, in addition to reading level.

DRAFT

Abilene Public Library
Reconsideration Requests Received
10/1/2022-2/1/2023

TITLE	STATUS
A Court of Frost and Starlight	Duplicate
A Court of Thorns and Roses	Duplicate
A Court of Wings and Ruin	Active
All boys aren't blue	Duplicate
And they lived	Active
Kingdom of Ash	Active
Red Hood	Duplicate
Red, White and Royal Blue	Duplicate
The deplorables' guide to making America great again	Withdrawn
The Poet X	Active
The Black Flamingo	Active
Tower of Dawn	Active
George/Melissa	Active
Speak	Active

**SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

November 7, 2022

The Abilene Public Library received thirty (30) reconsideration requests between August 21, 2022, and October 1, 2022. Any reconsideration requests received on or after October 1, 2022, and on or before December 1, 2022, will be processed and a recommendation presented at the next quarterly library meeting. As a reminder, any book subject to an open Reconsideration Request is pulled from the shelves of the Abilene Public Library pending final action by the Abilene City Manager.

These thirty (30) reconsideration requests were submitted by six (6) individuals. Four (4) reconsideration requests duplicated another petitioner's request. Therefore, this Recommendation addresses twenty-six (26) titles.

PREAMBLE.

The Abilene Public Library strives to meet the various needs of all its residents. It is the duty of the Abilene Public Library Director and staff, this Special Review Committee, the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board, and the City Manager to apply the stated goals approved and adopted by the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board.

Material that may meet one or more resident's needs may be contrary to the sensibilities of other residents. Such is the nature of all communities.

The library does not and cannot place the needs of one individual or group of individuals over another individual or group of individuals. The library strives to provide adequate resources to meet the needs of *all* its citizens.

The library supports the right of the individual to access information, no matter if it may be considered controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others. Abilene is home to a diverse citizenry reflecting a broad range of perspectives, ideas, and needs. The current collection reflects the dignity, viewpoints, needs and interests of our citizens in accordance with the overall demographics of the City of Abilene, not just a perceived majority.

RECITATION OF FACTS.

The Special Review Committee comprised of Clint Buck, Joe Specht, and Denise Moore conducted five (5) meetings to meet with four (4) individual petitioners. Two (2) petitioners elected not to meet in person, and one petitioner met with the Committee on two (2) separate occasions. These meetings were held at the Main Library on the following dates and times:

- Friday, September 23, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.;
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.;
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.;
- Monday, October 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.; and
- Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Julee Hatton, Director of Library Services, was also in attendance at each of these meetings.

Petitioner's requests for the reconsidered titles varied from removing a book from the shelves of the Abilene Public Library to reclassifying the book (i.e. moving a Young Adult Fiction book into Adult Fiction) to creating a specially segregated section for books specifically identified by petitioner. Two (2) petitioners wanted the book "Sold" by Patricia McCormick to be removed from the Abilene Public Library.

A prevalent theme from all four (4) of the petitioners with whom the Committee met in person was that of "inadvertent discovery" – that a minor library patron would accidentally stumble upon a book containing undesirable content and/or images deemed offensive by the patron or patron's parent or guardian. This theme was consistently, and clearly communicated by each of the four (4) petitioners who met with the Committee and the Committee kept this concern in mind while conducting its review.

The import of submitting a Reconsideration Request cannot be overstated. Asking a public library dedicated to serving *all* its residents to reconsider a book is a monumental request. In essence, a petitioner is purporting to know and/or believe his or her rights and/or beliefs carry more weight than another citizen's rights and beliefs. So, Reconsideration Requests must weigh heavy on each petitioner as each request weighs heavy on the Special Review Committee, the Library Advisory Board, and the City Manager.

Of the twenty-six (26) books subject to recommendation today, the six (6) petitioners collectively read, in their entirety, six (6) of the books. As a result, petitioners were, by and large, unable to articulate any contextual understanding for the sentences and/or snippets they relied on in their respective reconsideration requests.

The members of the Special Review Committee endeavored to consider each title in its entirety. The Special Review Committee focused its attention on the fourteen (14) physical books owned by the Abilene Public Library.

The Abilene Public Library exists to "provide materials, services, and programming to help community residents obtain information which meets their personal, educational, professional and recreational needs". The foregoing statement is in accordance with the policies last approved and adopted by the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board on August 1, 2016, specifically referencing the Collection Development Policy, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement and the Freedom to View Statement (all of which are available to the public on the City of Abilene website).

RECOMMENDATION.

We recommend the following young adult books be reclassified into the corresponding adult section:

- A five (5) book series called A Court of Thorn and Roses by Sarah J. Maas, including two titles specifically subject to a reconsideration request: A Court of Thorn and Roses and A Court of Frost and Starlight;
- Damsel; and
- Flamer.

We believe the following juvenile and young adult books are shelved appropriately within the APL collection and, therefore, recommend no action on the following books:

- The Moon Within;
- Foul is Fair;
- Sold; and
- Yolk.

The following books are exclusively available in an electronic format. In other words, there are no physical books for these titles housed in the Abilene Public Library. The absence of an actual physical book effectively eliminates any chance for a child in the library to inadvertently stumble across it.

Additionally, the Abilene Public Library is developing a library card (hereinafter, the “Restricted Access Juvenile Card”) that would restrict these electronic titles, among others, from being checked out. The Restricted Access Card will be elective for parents or guardians of minor children.

Therefore, we recommend no action on the following titles considering the absence of physical access to these titles, along with the future rollout of the Restricted Access Juvenile Card:

- My Body is Growing: A Guide for Children Ages 4 to 8;
- Bumped;
- Burned;
- Crank;
- Lawn Boy; and
- What Girls Are Made Of.

We believe the following adult fiction books, adult nonfiction books and/or audiobooks are shelved or categorized appropriately within the APL collection and, therefore, recommend no action on the following books:

- The Bluest Eye (abridged audiobook);
- All Boys Aren’t Blue: a memoir-manifesto;
- This Book is Gay;
- Kite Runner;
- Slaughterhouse Five; and
- Queer: A Graphic History

We recommend the following adult graphic novel be relocated from the adult graphic novel section at the Mockingbird Branch to the adult graphic novel section at the Main Library:

- Handmaid’s Tale (Graphic Novel).

During our in-person meeting, the petitioner agreed the following adult books were appropriately shelved in the adult section and, therefore, requested no action. We, therefore, recommend no action be taken on the following titles:

- Red Hood;
- Red, White and Royal Blue; and
- You Too?

Two Reconsideration Requests were for books not owned or proffered by the Abilene Public Library and, therefore, no action is necessitated:

- Lolita; and
- Two Boys Kissing.

For clarity purposes in processing these recommendations, a more detailed description of the Abilene Public Library holdings of the above twenty-six (26) titles is attached as Exhibit 1.

EXHIBIT 1
November 7, 2022
ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDINGS
for titles subject to foregoing
Special Review Committee Recommendation

The two (2) books NOT owned by Abilene Public Library (Lolita and Two Boys Kissing) are not included below.

1. Publisher Information:

Book	A Court of Thorn and Roses
Author	Sarah J. Maas
Publisher	New York: Bloomsbury Publishing
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	South Branch Library
Shelving Location	Young Adult Fiction
Call Number	YA SF MAAS 10/2021

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0020
Recommendation	Reclassify entire series A Court of Thorn and Roses (for a total of 5 books) to Adult Fiction.

2. Publisher Information:

Book	A Court of Frost and Starlight
Author	Sarah J. Maas
Publisher	New York: Bloomsbury Publishing
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	5
Location	Main, Mockingbird, South

Shelving Location	Young Adult Science Fiction
Call Number	YA SF MAAS 04/2018, 10/2021

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0004
Recommendation	Reclassify entire series A Court of Thorn and Roses (for a total of 5 books) to Adult Fiction.

3. Publisher Information:

Book	Damsel
Author	Elana K. Arnold
Publisher	Balzer + Bray, An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers
Edition/Format	Print Book, eBook, eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Main
Shelving Location	Young Adult Fiction
Call Number	YA F ARNOLD 2/2020

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-08-0003 2202-09-0009
Recommendation	Reclassify to Adult Fiction

4. Publisher Information:

Book	Flamer
Author	Mike Curato
Publisher	Balzer + Bray, An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	3
Location	Main, South, Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Young Adult Graphic Novel

Call Number	GN YA CURATO 11/2020
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Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0010
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Recommendation	Reclassify to Adult Graphic Novel
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5. Publisher Information:

Book	The Moon Within
Author	Aida Salazar
Publisher	Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.
Edition/Format	First Edition; Print Book

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Juvenile Fiction
Call Number	J Salazar 2/2019

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-08-0007
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Recommendation	Remain in Juvenile Fiction
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6. Publisher Information:

Book	Foul is Fair
Author	Hannah Capin
Publisher	New York: Wednesday Books
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	2
Location	Main, Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Young Adult Fiction
Call Number	YA CAPIN 2/2020

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-08-0005 2022-09-0011
Recommendation	Remain in Young Adult Fiction

7. Publisher Information:

Book	Sold
Author	Patricia McCormick
Publisher	New York: Hyperion
Edition/Format	Print Book; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Main
Shelving Location	Young Adult Fiction
Call Number	YA F MCCORMICK

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-08-0006 2022-08-0008 2022-09-0015
Recommendation	Remain in Young Adult Fiction

8. Publisher Information:

Book	Yolk
Author	Mary H K Choi
Publisher	New York: Simon & Schuster BFYR
Edition/Format	Print Book

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	South
Shelving Location	Young Adult Fiction
Call Number	YA F CHOI 3/2021

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0019
Recommendation	Remain in Young Adult Fiction

9. Publisher Information:

Book	My Body is Growing: A Guide for Children, Ages 4 to 8
Author	Dagmar Geisler
Publisher	Sky Pony
Edition/Format	eBook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	0
Location	N/A
Shelving Location	N/A
Call Number	N/A

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0012
Recommendation	Restricted Access Card

10. Publisher Information:

Book	Bumped
Author	Megan McCafferty
Publisher	New York: Balzer + Bray
Edition/Format	eBook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	0
Location	N/A
Shelving Location	N/A
Call Number	N/A

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0022
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Recommendation	Restricted Access Card
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11. Publisher Information:

Book	Burned
Author	Ellen Hopkins
Publisher	New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books
Edition/Format	eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	0
Location	N/A
Shelving Location	N/A
Call Number	N/A

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0023
Recommendation	Restricted Access Card

12. Publisher Information:

Book	Crank
Author	Ellen Hopkins
Publisher	New York: Simon & Schuster
Edition/Format	eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	0
Location	N/A
Shelving Location	N/A
Call Number	N/A

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0024
Recommended	Restricted Access Card

13. Publisher Information:

Book	Lawn Boy
Author	Juno Evison (formerly Johathan Evison)
Publisher	Algonquin Books
Edition/Format	eBook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	0
Location	N/A
Shelving Location	N/A
Call Number	N/A

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0027
Recommendation	Restricted Access Card

14. Publisher Information:

Book	What Girls Are Made Of
Author	Elena K. Arnold
Publisher	Lerner Publishing Group
Edition/Format	eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	0
Location	N/A
Shelving Location	N/A
Call Number	N/A

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0030
Recommendation	Restricted Access Card

15. Publisher Information:

Book	The Bluest Eye
Author	Toni Morrison
Publisher	Random House Audio
Edition/Format	Abridged CD; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1 (abridged CD)
Location	South
Shelving Location	Adult Audiobook Fiction
Call Number	F MORRISON

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0029
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Audiobook Fiction

16. Publisher Information:

Book	All boys aren't blue: a memoir-manifesto
Author	George M. Johnson
Publisher	New York : Farrar Straus Giroux
Edition/Format	First Edition Print Book; eBook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Main
Shelving Location	Adult Nonfiction
Call Number	306.766. JOH 5/2021

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0021
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Nonfiction

17. Publisher Information:

Book	This Book is Gay
Author	James Dawson
Publisher	Sourcebooks Fire
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Main
Shelving Location	Adult Nonfiction
Call Number	306.766.DAW

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0017
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Nonfiction

18. Publisher Information:

Book	Kite Runner
Author	Khaled Hosseini
Publisher	Riverhead Books
Edition/Format	Print Book; Audiobook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	2 books; 1 audiobook
Location	Main, Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Adult Fiction
Call Number	F HOSSEINI

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0032
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Fiction

19. Publisher Information:

Book	Slaughterhouse Five
Author	Kurt Vonnegut
Publisher	Delacourte Press
Edition/Format	Adult fiction; Adult audiobook fiction

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1 book; 1 audiobook
Location	Main, South
Shelving Location	Adult Science Fiction; Adult Audiobook Science Fiction
Call Number	SF VONNEGUT

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0028
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Science Fiction; Adult Audiobook Science Fiction

20. Publisher Information:

Book	Queer : a graphic history
Author	Meg-John Barker and Jules Scheele
Publisher	London, UK : Icon Books Ltd
Edition/Format	Print Book

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Main
Shelving Location	Adult Nonfiction
Call Number	306.766. BAR

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0018
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Nonfiction

21. Publisher Information:

Book	The Handmaid's Tale (Graphic Novel)
Author	Margaret Atwood; art & adaption, Renee Nault
Publisher	Nan A. Talese, Doubleday
Edition/Format	Graphic Novel

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Adult Graphic Novel
Call Number	GN F NAULT 3/2019

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0031
Recommendation	Relocate from Mockingbird Branch to Main Library; remain in Adult Graphic Novel Fiction

22. Publisher Information:

Book	Red Hood
Author	Elana K. Arnold
Publisher	New York: Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Adult Fiction
Call Number	F ARNOLD 3/2020

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0013
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Fiction

23. Publisher Information:

Book	Red, White & Royal Blue
Author	Casey McQuiston
Publisher	New York : St. Martin's Griffin
Edition/Format	Print Book

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	1
Location	Main
Shelving Location	Adult Fiction
Call Number	F MCQUISTON 7/2019

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0014
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Fiction

24. Publisher Information:

Book	You Too?
Author	Janet Gurtler

Publisher	Inkyard Press
Edition/Format	Print Book; eBook; eAudiobook

Abilene Public Library holdings:

No of Print Copies	2
Location	Main, Mockingbird
Shelving Location	Adult Nonfiction
Call Number	176.4 YOU 2/2020

Reconsideration Request ID	2022-09-0016
Recommendation	Remain in Adult Nonfiction