

Developing Roseburg Library's Collection Kris Wiley and Aurora Ropp for The News Review

We love developing Roseburg Public Library's collection of 80,000 items, purchasing and discarding materials to maintain a popular, relevant selection for all ages and interests.

Patrons see the results of our work – the shiny new books, audiobooks, and DVDs on the shelves. Behind the scenes, we apply our expertise and a lot of time to select items that create a well-rounded collection.

We focus most of our efforts on books and utilize a number of methods to learn about what has been published recently or what's on the horizon. A rather sad but true inevitability is we read more about books than read the books themselves.

We utilize professional journals such as Library Journal and School Library Journal; book review sources such as Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, Book Riot and Booklist; and videos and podcasts produced by publishers, reviewers and librarians. We read a lot of synopses, and sometimes we read advance copies of entire books, which is particularly helpful when deciding whether to purchase the work of a debut author or someone previously unknown to us.

We focus on bestsellers, books set in the Pacific Northwest or written by regional authors, award-winning titles and items that are reviewed well and fill gaps in our collection. Examples of those gaps include a type of craft, drawing technique, difficult topics for children, culture and travel guidebook.

As we determine what to purchase, we consider the library's digital platforms, Libby and cloudLibrary, extensions of the print collection.

So far this fiscal year we have spent more than \$21,000 on electronic books and audiobooks, accounting for 31 percent of all spending on materials. That tracks with our checkouts, about 30 percent of which are digital items.

Libby, also known as OverDrive or Library2go, includes 65,500 items in electronic book and audiobook formats. The program is administered by the Oregon Digital Library Consortium of libraries around the state, who pay an annual membership fee. The past two years, we have used funding from the Douglas County Library Foundation to pay our fee.

A committee of librarians selects most of the items in Libby's collection, and we are not part of that process. Here at Roseburg, we often purchase additional copies of titles when our patrons have at least four holds on them.

We also subscribe to cloudLibrary as part of a small group of libraries. There are fewer titles on the platform, but new books tend to be available much sooner than through

Libby. We focus on purchasing bestselling titles for adults and keep an eye on trending items for other age groups.

We are grateful for our reciprocal borrowing arrangement with Mildred Whipple Library in Drain. They regularly purchase new books, which expands the options for our patrons. Thanks to the Douglas Education Service District, which couriers books between our libraries once a week, patrons can place holds on materials online and pick them up in person at their home library.

If patrons do not see an item available in print or digital format, we encourage them to submit a request form either in person or through their account at roseburg.biblionix.com. We review all requests and tend to fulfill them when they are newly published and fill a gap in our collection.

Want to know more about collection development? Stop in and visit with us or email library@cityofroseburg.org with your questions.

Happy reading!

This Week's Library Events

Thursday, May 9, 12-2 p.m. – Tech Time with Spanish interpretation available

Friday, May 10, 12-2 p.m. – Tech Time