Salem Public Library's Collection

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Library have a "core" collection?

SPL does not have a "core collection" or a list of core titles. This follows best practices for public libraries. Few modern public libraries create, update and maintain a core collection list. Instead, Salem Public Library selects core items that:

- Circulate widely
- Are of current interest to library users
- Reflect the community's uniqueness – not simply built from a standard list of books

How is it the collection maintained?

Core items in the Salem Public Library collection are maintained no differently than other items, guided by the Collection Development Policy. The Library utilizes CollectionHQ software to provide use statistics.

What guides the selection of items?

Items are selected based on criteria in the Collection Development Policy. These include standard selection tools (e.g., professional reviews in industry publications), as well as patron requests, and popular authors based on past circulation.