

Salem Public Library Provides More Details on its Collection

Salem Public Library has developed new information on how it continuously manages its collection of books and other materials to best match changing community needs and interests.

[The Library's collection is regularly updated using professional standards adopted by libraries all over the U.S.](#) Books are removed if they are in poor condition, little used, no longer current or a surplus copy. Replacements are sought for damaged books that are still in demand. Every year, the Library adds 33,000 *new* items —books, DVDs CDs, magazines, eBooks and other resources — to satisfy the needs of every age group, pre-school to retiree.

The Library has now posted on its webpage, data regarding books removed from *December 13, 2019 to February 21, 2019*. Librarians used barcodes instead of book titles to expedite tracking the books removed or replaced during this period, and the reasons for each decision. To view the data, [click here](#). For a snapshot of items removed or replaced, listing their titles, please [click here](#). Information available *before* development of this data collection method did not describe selection criteria for each book removed.

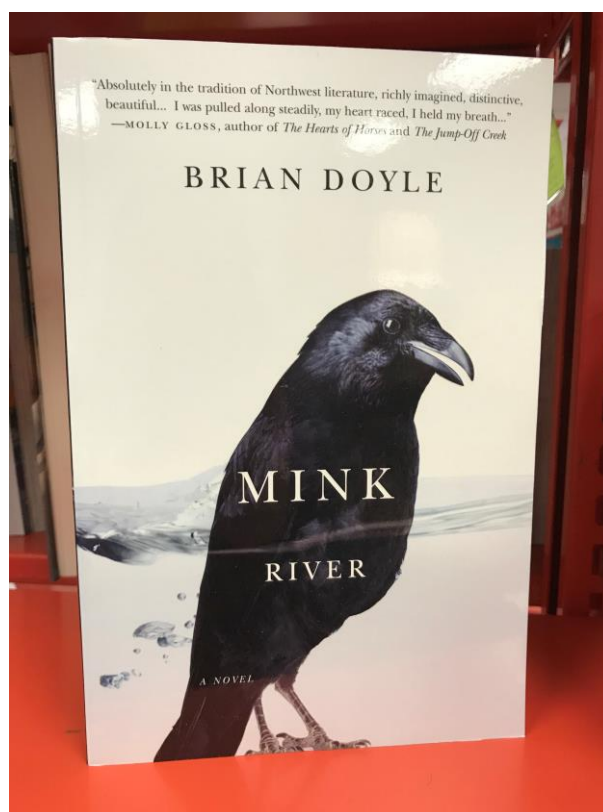
Examples of books removed and added to the Library's collection during this period, and the reasons why, include:

- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Withdrawn for poor condition. We own two other copies at Salem Public Library Main Branch (SPLM) and one at Salem Public Library West Salem Branch (SPLW).

- *Mink River* by Brian Doyle

At the time of check-in, Circulation staff identified poor condition and sent it down to Technical Services for evaluation. Item was not able to be mended and was withdrawn. Librarian was notified and replacement copy ordered. New copy is in the Library and currently being cataloged. We also own a book club kit of this title.



New replacement copy of Brian Doyle's novel, Mink River

- *Selected Poems of Langston Hughes* by Langston Hughes

Withdrawn for poor condition. Librarian ordered a new copy of *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, currently on the shelf. The “Selected Poems” are available at three other Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (CCRLS) libraries.

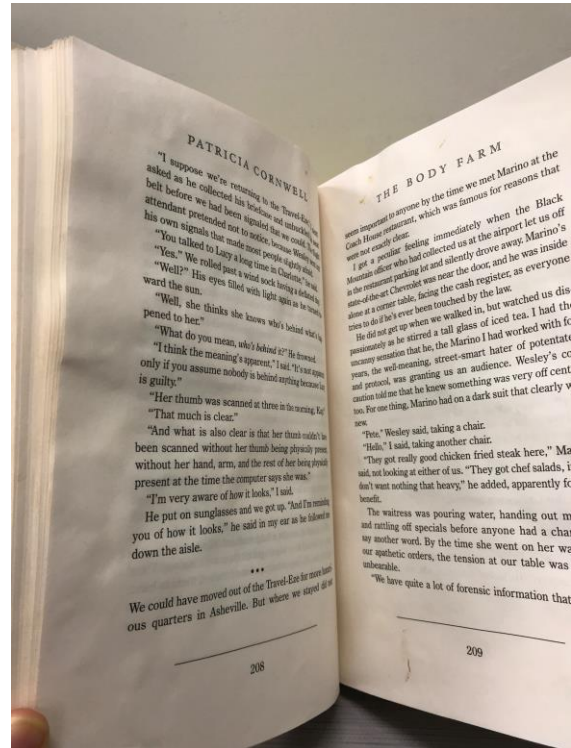
- *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy

This three-volume set was withdrawn for poor condition (volume 1 was grubby and stained, and volume 3 had grubby pages, water damage and stains). All three volumes were withdrawn and replaced with an additional copy of an all-in-one volume. When the book was withdrawn, SPLM owned an additional all-in-one copy, but that copy has since been lost by a patron. The new copy is in the Library and currently being cataloged.

- *Novels & Stories, 1963-1973* by Kurt Vonnegut

At the time of check-in, Circulation staff identified poor condition and sent it down to Technical Services for evaluation. Item was not able to be mended and was withdrawn. Librarian was notified, replacement ordered and new copy is being cataloged.

- *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*
Withdrawn for poor condition and will be reordered. In the meantime, SPLM owns multiple titles of Dickinson’s *selected* poems.



Patricia Cornwell’s The Body Farm had a split spine, water damage and stains that could not be repaired. This popular mystery is being replaced with a new copy.

The Library Advisory board recommended that, in the future, the Library research methods to efficiently record the number of books, their titles, and other items discarded, and the reasons for each decision. Staff are working with Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service to do the recommended research on methods for this work.