

## Popular Reading Collection Policy

### Purpose

The Popular Reading Collection supports the well-being of the Eastern Michigan University community through access to non-academic reading for enjoyment and entertainment. Reading for leisure supports the whole student by fostering empathy and emotional regulation, as well as academic engagement and literacy beyond the classroom. The types of materials purchased for Popular Reading may include fiction, graphic novels, biographies, bestselling nonfiction and other titles pertaining to topics of current interest. These types of materials are generally found on “best seller” lists such as that of the *New York Times*.

### Acquisition

Selection of new titles is ongoing. Works selected for the Popular Reading Collection should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Works of a consistently popular author whose work is enjoyed by a large population of the general public;
- New fiction and non-fiction titles that have been well-reviewed; or
- Works that provide a variety of social and cultural perspectives.

A wide array of books can be included such as but not limited to: Fantasy, Romance, Thrillers, Mystery, Horror, Graphic Novels, Comics, Historical, Science Fiction, Biography, Memoirs, True Crime, and Young Adult.

Examples of sources for recommendations include but are not limited to: *The New York Times Best Sellers List*, *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *NPR*, and library user recommendations.

Books can be added through purchases, donations, and grant funding. When possible, paperback copies of books will be acquired to increase the browsability of the collection. Exceptions may be made for materials that cannot be acquired in paperback, or that may be moved to and from the general collection. When funding is available, the Popular Reading Collection may be supplemented by subscription or leasing services. Materials from the general collection may be temporarily moved to the Popular Reading Collection to supplement the collection.

### Size and Presentation of the Collection

The Popular Reading collection is not intended to be a comprehensive collection, but rather a small selection of between 200 and 500 popular books.

The collection is designed to be highly browsable. Unlike other parts of the general collection, the user should be able to quickly view all of the physical books in the Popular Reading Collection to make a selection. As is the norm with browsing collections, the collection will be located in an area that is eye-catching with high foot traffic. Books will be displayed aesthetically using “Book Store” style recommendations or “cover out” displays.

Short term shelving of new books, book displays, and other relevant material could potentially be incorporated into this display and shelving area per consultation with faculty librarians, the Collection Development Team, or Library Coordinating Council, depending on the duration and scope of the project.

### **Deselection**

Every year, items that have been in the collection for two years will be evaluated by the Collection Development Team to ensure that the titles match user preferences and interests. Some titles removed from Popular Reading will be relocated to the Main collection as determined by the relevant subject librarians. Other titles will be removed and donated as provided in the library’s Collection Development Policy deselection section. The number of titles in this collection is fluid—rather than replacing each withdrawn book with a new book, the library will purchase titles as they are identified as meeting the popular reading needs of EMU students, faculty, and staff. The usage data is to be provided by library faculty and staff to inform selection and deselection. Damaged or lost copies will not automatically be replaced.

Approved by Library Faculty: February 7, 2025

Anticipated date for next review: February 7, 2030