



# Open eBooks

## Collection Development Policy

May 2017-February 2019

### Introduction

#### **Patron Needs and Services**

Open eBooks ([www.openebooks.net](http://www.openebooks.net)) is a library containing thousands of popular and award-winning titles that are free for children from in-need households. In order to offer as few barriers to reading as possible, these eBooks can be read without holds or late fees. Young readers will find today's popular works, widely-read classics from the past, and new favorites. They need to be able to see themselves in a book, and a priority is placed on diverse characters, authors, experiences, languages, and genres. The goal of Open eBooks is to encourage a love of reading and serve as a gateway to children reading even more often, whether in school, at libraries, or through other eBook reading apps.

#### **Description of Current Collection**

The Open eBooks library currently contains 6,000 eBooks. Content spans age 5 through age 18, including some general adult titles of interest to high school audiences. Content from the largest publishers are available, as well as a selection of Classics. All eBooks are available in EPUB format, the latest standard for making books accessible to read on mobile devices and through accessible technology.

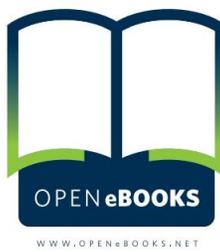
### Priorities and policies

#### **Collection priorities**

Current collection priorities include:

- *Diversity* - Diverse characters, diverse authors, and diverse interests, including but not limited to race/ethnicity, nationality, religion and sexual orientation
- *Spanish or other non-English language titles* - students who are bilingual or are not yet proficient in English need to be served by the collection
- *Picture books* - Because picture books are difficult to publish in accessible formats, eBooks for early readers are a priority

#### **Languages**



There is high demand for titles in Spanish, but the current collection severely lacks in Spanish language titles. The program is used nationwide (and abroad on military bases), with many communities serving diaspora who need content in non-English languages.

## **Funding**

There is currently no funding for the Open eBooks initiative's collection development. All titles have been generously donated by the publisher, or are in the public domain.

## **Selection**

### **Who does the selecting:**

Open eBooks partner the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) manages a Curation Corps of school and public librarians specializing in K-12 audiences. These passionate individuals represent a broad range of expertise and commitment to serving low income and diverse populations. Suggestions from other librarians, educators, parents and readers are welcome, but may not be eligible for inclusion depending on publisher, format, and copyright.

### **Selection decisions:**

Baker & Taylor generates the first set of content for selection in Open eBooks. This process is based on the following criteria:

- Publisher commitment - Only books from publishers who have signed an Open eBooks agreement with Baker & Taylor may participate
- Format - The Open eBooks app currently only displays eBooks published in EPUB 3.0 format

The Curation Corps librarians make a "wish list" of eBooks based on the following considerations:

- Appropriateness - Book meets readers' age development, reading level, learning style, interests
- Timeliness - Book contains current information (especially nonfiction), is popular among young readers or has remained popular over time
- Literary merit -Book is a bestseller, award winner, or comes highly recommended

Wish lists are then submitted to publishers for consideration to include in the library. The publishers make the final approval, considering factors like copyright and author approval.

## **Gift Policy**



Open eBooks would not be possible without the generous donations of publishers, partners, and content creators. However, there is currently no capacity for adding individual donations of eBooks on an irregular basis. Independently published materials are important sources of diverse content, and Open eBooks hopes to build a workflow for adding this content in the future.

### **Collection Maintenance**

Because Open eBooks is all-electronic, donation-based, and a young collection, there are currently no weeding activities in place. Materials are occasionally removed from the library at the request of publishers.

### **Complaints and Censorship**

Open eBooks upholds the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Open eBooks will enact the following procedure if a patron has a complaint about a title(s) in the library:



1. The patron will submit in writing (either via e-mail, in-app via a Help Desk ticket, or via 'Report a Problem') the eBook in question and their specific concern.
2. A representative from the Open eBooks team will contact the patron to confirm receipt and ask for additional detail if needed
3. The issue will be referred to the Curation Corps, who will evaluate the concern and determine an appropriate action
4. Open eBooks staff will follow up with the patron with the final decision

Date of Policy: May 24, 2017