



## WTBBL COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) adheres to the *Revised Standards and Guidelines of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped* (American Library Association, 2017) which states: "Network libraries will acquire or produce reading materials to supplement the national collection as appropriate to their capacity and the needs of their service communities" and "materials produced in specialized formats will be in accordance with appropriate copyright laws" (p. 9). To this end, WTBBL will emphasize titles of regional and local importance. NLS and WTBBL support intellectual freedom and subscribe to the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights* and *Freedom to Read Statement*.

ALA *Library Bill of Rights*:

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

ALA *Freedom to Read Statement*:

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

### **Local Audio and Braille Production Overview:**

WTBBL strives to produce books that will be of enduring or broad interest to a diverse group of patrons. We welcome requests to add books to the collection, in addition to our staff selections. WTBBL's Collection Development Committee makes the final selection of books for production. Books relevant to the Pacific Northwest are most strongly considered, including but not limited to: authors closely identified with the region, novels set in the region, and histories of the cities, towns, industry, and Native peoples of the region. Northwest fiction and non-fiction, poetry, adult or juvenile materials, will all be given equal consideration. General interest titles may also be considered, if they enrich the national collection.

### **Selection Guidelines:**

- 1) WTBBL will not duplicate the efforts of NLS or other Network Libraries by knowingly producing books available from these sources. WTBBL will, however, consider producing books available only as commercial audiobooks, or only available from fee-based services, if they would make a significant contribution to the collection.
- 2) General fiction materials from an established publisher with favorable reviews in professional reviewing sources (i.e., Booklist, Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly, and



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School Library Journal) are given precedence over un-reviewed or negatively reviewed books; self-published books will be considered, with a preference to professionally edited works, positive reviews, PNW relevance, and demonstrated general interest that would benefit the national collection. Manuscripts will not be considered.

- 3) General interest, non-fiction books will be evaluated on the qualification of the author, as well as the clarity, logic, and accuracy of the information being presented. While no book will be denied production based on individual or controversial viewpoints, a book may be denied production if the information being presented is out of date, has been disproven, or is not accepted as valid by the subject matter's professional community members during professional review. Manuscripts will not be considered.
- 4) Authors already produced by NLS or WTBBL that have been popular with our patrons in the past will be favorably considered, even without reviews.
- 5) Washington State Book Award nominees and winners, Seattle Reads titles, and other award winners and award nominees are given priority for consideration.
- 6) WTBBL may decline to produce an otherwise worthwhile book if producing it is beyond the capabilities of a braille or audio medium, or the content is beyond the capabilities of our volunteer narrators and braille transcribers; i.e., if the book is chiefly illustrations, contains charts, graphs, or other material vital to the understanding of the text, is in a language of which no available volunteers are fluent, or is of a length that would be difficult to produce in a timely manner.
- 7) WTBBL primarily circulates popular fiction and general interest nonfiction and will decline to produce textbooks, reference books, or other material of limited appeal. Examples of such books would be: genealogical reference materials, extremist political or religious texts with a narrow audience, and materials that will become outdated within 3 years.
- 8) Materials that expound discrimination against any group of people, encourage violence against, or threaten the rights of others will not be considered for production.

**To receive serious consideration for local production in either audio or braille, a title requested by an individual or patron must meet the above guidelines.**