

18 November 2021

Kia ora

### **Information about “Irreversible Damage” by Abigail Shrier**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 26 October 2021. You requested the following information:

- *We request all internal and external correspondence held by Wellington City Libraries that mentions the book ‘Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters’ by Abigail Shrier.*
  - *Please do not omit to include:*
    - *Any and all correspondence requesting the library not purchase the book*
    - *Any and all correspondence between library staff/officials about the decision not to purchase the book*
    - *All correspondence/records held by Wellington City Libraries about the reasons for the decision of the Selection Team not to purchase the book*

On 9 November we clarified your request to not include other responses to requests for official information and requests to purchase the book.

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information.

Whenever a title is considered for inclusion in our collections, the members of Collection Development Team are guided by the principles set out in our publicly available Collection Development Policy. These collection development principles are explained in a set of internal documents written to assist general library staff, called ‘Collection Area Profiles’. We have attached the Collection Area Profile for Adult Non-Fiction. These principles apply for physical and digital collections.

Collection development decisions involve careful consideration of many factors, as indicated in the policy documents. As a result, the members of the Collection Development Team research and assess each item on its own merits, and do not have fixed checklists of parameters. We have attached an internal email that summarises the research process and considerations that went into the decisions for “Irreversible Damage”.

Below are the documents that fall in scope of your request and my decision to release the document.

Item	Document name/description	Decision
1	Internal email summarising the decision-making process not to purchase "Irreversible Damage"	Release, with staff details redacted
2	Email sent to a customer who queried the decision not to buy a copy of "Irreversible Damage"	Release, with customer's personal information redacted
3	Further email sent to a customer who queried the decision not to buy a copy of "Irreversible Damage"	Release, with customer's personal information redacted
4	Collection Area Profile – Adult Non-Fiction	Release
5	Collection Development Policy	Release

The Collection Development Team often shares informal verbal discussions as they assess possible collection purchases according to Wellington City Libraries' policies. These are not always recorded. The correspondence released to you however summarised and documents a longer discussion that had taken place regarding this book.

For completeness, we did not receive any correspondence requesting not to purchase the book.

Where information has been withheld, this has been made under section 7(2)(a) of the Act, as it contains personal information about private individuals. In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 7(1) of the Act.

#### **Right of review**

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we will proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any question please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards



Gareth Hancock  
**Team Leader Official Information**

## Gareth Hancock

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**From:** Laurinda Thomas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 March 2021 8:36 am  
**To:** Kathleen Lockett  
**Subject:** RE: Irreversible damage

Many thanks for documenting this so thoroughly. Happy with the conclusion you've come to.

Ngā mihi,  
Laurinda

**From:** Kathleen Lockett <Kathleen.Lockett@wcc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 March 2021 12:38 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]@wcc.govt.nz  
**Cc:** Laurinda Thomas <Laurinda.Thomas@wcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Irreversible damage

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for the research you have put into this Suggestion to Buy. From our discussions on this topic, I know we have both given this request a lot of careful thought based on our professional collection development policies and understanding of the communities served by WCL.

Thank you for attaching these links to NZ sources, describing the lives and the feelings of young NZers living through this very difficult experience.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2021/03/controversy-brewing-over-transgender-children-s-access-to-puberty-blockers.html>

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/controversial-treatment-preventing-puberty-transgender-kids>

We consulted reviews in scientific journals:

eg [A Review of "Irreversible Damage" by Abigail Shrier | Psychology Today New Zealand](#)

as well as non-scientific reviews from the UK (The Times) and from USA (The Economist), and many opinion pieces by writers with different approaches to this topic, eg <http://uwire.com/?s=UWIRE+Text&x=26&y=14&=Go> and [The Trans Cult.: Discovery Service for Wellington City Libraries \(ebSCOhost.com\)](#)

The range of contradictory reviews about the scientific methods used by the author and the uses to which she puts them, indicates that there is not a wide-base of expert consensus about the factual nature of the book.

I also note that since publication, this book and author have been part of a wider social discussion about whether the choice not to buy or endorse a book equates to censorship, and whether disagreeing with an author's argument should lead to destruction of their work.

From our research, I support the decision not to purchase this book for Wellington City Libraries.

It's clear from the articles we have read that different countries' medical and support services treat gender dysphoria and the transgender experience differently. So, in order to serve our local community well, we need to prioritise material that is relevant and applicable to experiences here in NZ.

Also, we know from talking with people who have lived this experience for themselves, that the most important thing we can do is purchase material that is inclusive, objective, and based on the stories of the people themselves. The transgender community has historically been discriminated against, with little voice in mainstream publishing. So as part of reflecting the needs of our wider Wellington society we have a responsibility to listen to their requests for inclusivity.

This aligns with our Collection Development Policy:

"Wellington City Libraries provides collections in a range of formats representing the diversity of views suited to our communities and that meet their current and anticipated needs."

However, in making this decision, we are not signalling that the book should not be available by other services offered by WCL.

This title currently held by other libraries in NZ, and the people who have requested this book may choose to use our Interloans Service to borrow and read this book.

As always, we will review our decision if new information becomes available for us to consider.

Thanks again for your work on this very sensitive topic.

Ngā mihi,  
Kathleen

**From:** [REDACTED]@wcc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 March 2021 11:13 am  
**To:** Kathleen Lockett <Kathleen.Lockett@wcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Irreversible damage

Kia ora Kathleen

As you can see the debate is gaining momentum and I don't think the Abigail Shrier book is one for the library to add to the collection at this time. I am not going to order it or enter into further discussion. I will leave it to you to decide on further action.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2021/03/controversy-brewing-over-transgender-children-s-access-to-puberty-blockers.html>

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/controversial-treatment-preventing-puberty-transgender-kids>

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Collection Development | Arts, Culture & Community Services | Wellington City Council

P [REDACTED]  
E [REDACTED]@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

The information contained in this email is privileged and confidential and intended for the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient, you are asked to respect that confidentiality and not disclose, copy or make use of its contents. If received in error you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.

**Absolutely Positively**  
**Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

## Gareth Hancock

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**From:** Kathleen Lockett  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 April 2021 4:30 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Your suggestion to buy from Wellington City Libraries

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your email questioning Wellington City Libraries' decision not to purchase *Irreversible Damage* has been forwarded to me. I appreciate that you disagree with the outcome, and I'm sorry that this might be disappointing for you.

I can't comment on the selection policies and actions of other libraries.

Here at Wellington there are several criteria that our Selection Team weigh up when deciding whether or not to purchase a book. Decisions are made after a careful balancing of many criteria, rather than considering just one data point.

In the course of our decision-making process on this particular book, we looked at both scientific reviews and popular reviews of this book, and also looked more widely on the topic of gender dysphoria and transgender issues (the subject of this book). In reviewing these, it was clear that different countries' social and medical services treat gender dysphoria and transgender issues in different ways. There were also a range of contradictory reviews about the scientific methods used by the author, which indicated that there is not a wide base of expert consensus about the factual rigour of the book.

In order to meet our key priority of serving our local community, we consider whether the material is applicable to experiences here in New Zealand.

Assessing whether *Irreversible Damage* reflects the lived experience of New Zealanders and of New Zealand's social and medical systems would have formed part of the decision-making process.

Ngā mihi,  
Kathleen

### Kathleen Lockett

Team Leader, Collections & Technical Services | Wellington City Libraries

P 04 803 8115 | M [REDACTED]

E [kathleen.lockett@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:kathleen.lockett@wcc.govt.nz) | W [Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz) |

The information contained in this email is privileged and confidential and intended for the addressee only.

If you are not the intended recipient, you are asked to respect that confidentiality and not disclose, copy or make use of its contents.

If received in error you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.

### Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 3:02 pm  
**To:** BUS: Libwebsite <[libwebsite@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:libwebsite@wcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your suggestion to buy from Wellington City Libraries

Thank you for your reply to my request. You have identified some possible reasons for your decision. Given that the book is readily available, was published in the last year, is in standard print format, is included in many public libraries in New Zealand (so clearly suitable for inclusion in a public library) and significant customer demand for it can be anticipated, it would appear that budget and space restraints are the only identified, factors influencing your decision. Alternatively your decision was based on some other factor which has not been identified.

Could you please therefore advise me of the following:

Is there another factor which has informed your decision?

If so what is it?

If not:

What is the budget for book purchase?

What books which have been purchased this financial year?

What was the cost of these purchases?

In terms of space and financial constraints what is the maximum number of additional books which could be purchased this financial year?

Thank you

Kind regards

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 12:00 PM BUS: Libwebsite <[libwebsite@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:libwebsite@wcc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Borrower Number: [REDACTED]

Your suggestion to buy:

Author: Abigail Shrier

Title: *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*

Thank you for your suggestion to buy

We have carefully considered your request and regret that we will not be purchasing this item

This decision has been based on a number of factors which could include availability from our contractual suppliers, how recently it was published, format, its suitability for inclusion in a public library collection, budget and space restraints, and the anticipated customer demand.

For more information about our purchasing criteria, please see our Suggestion to Buy webpage at [www.wcl.govt.nz/about/services/suggestion.html](http://www.wcl.govt.nz/about/services/suggestion.html)

However, we are able to offer an Interloan. There is a charge for this service.

If you would like to organise this please contact the Interloans Team

on 4 801 4057, or email [interloans@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:interloans@wcc.govt.nz)

Thank you for your interest in Wellington City Libraries

Kind regards,

Collection Development Team

Wellington City Libraries

**From:** [Laurinda Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Kathleen Lockett](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Irreversible Damage - library decline to purchase  
**Date:** Friday, 1 October 2021 8:50:21 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Just FYI

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**From:** Laurinda Thomas  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 October 2021 8:50 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Irreversible Damage - library decline to purchase

Kia ora [REDACTED],

We understand that you are unhappy with the decision that was made not to purchase *Irreversible Damage* by Abigail Shrier for the collection at Wellington City Libraries.

As outlined in our previous emails, we consider many factors when deciding whether to purchase a title.

We have many items in our collection on gender-related topics representing a range of viewpoints. This forms part of a holistic approach to library collection management and means that while we do not purchase every title, we do aim to reflect the broad interests of the Wellington community.

As part of our regular ongoing reviews of libraries policies and practices, a review of our Collection Development Policy is already scheduled to take place in the coming months.

To the best of our knowledge, we have never purchased a copy of this book for our collection.

Regarding your request to make this chain of correspondence public, if you decide to do so, we ask for you to consider the Council Officers who make operational decisions in the course of their ordinary work, and how releasing this certain information may affect how they are treated publicly by other members of the public. For this reason we ask you not to make public any staff names apart from myself as the Manager, Libraries and Community Spaces. You would still be able to refer to other staff in the correspondence by their job title.

Ngā mihi,  
Laurinda Thomas

Laurinda Thomas ([she/her](#))  
Manager, Libraries and Community Spaces | Wellington City Council  
Kaiwhakahaere, Whare Pukapuka me ngā Wāhi Pāpori | Te Kaunihera o Pōneke  
P [REDACTED] E [Laurinda.Thomas@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Laurinda.Thomas@wcc.govt.nz) |  
W [wcl.govt.nz](http://wcl.govt.nz) | W [Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz) |





## **Adult Non Fiction**

### **Purpose:**

This document is a working guide for current and future selectors in the area. It provides additional background and information for library staff but is not intended as a weeding guideline. Collection HQ is the primary tool for collection management. Branch weeding flowcharts also play an important role.

### **Scope:**

This profile will:

- Support the provision of up-to-date, relevant collections.
- Cover all of the Libraries' collections except for those explicitly excluded in the Collection Policy (Rare Books, Photographs and Ephemera). As new collections are added, or there is a change in the way a collection should be managed, the profiles will be updated to reflect this.
- Outline the selection and maintenance practices for each part of the collection.
- Be updated as required e.g. when buying areas and budgets change. They should be reviewed for currency and relevance every 3 years.

### **Introduction:**

The Adult Non-Fiction Collections are comprised of material spanning the Dewey Decimal range, including a separate biographies section. Because of budget demands Collection profiles will be reviewed regularly.

The Central Library will hold a greater number and range of non-fiction titles particularly where there is anticipated demand. The branch collections will contain material of high demand and broad general appeal. Budget constraints can severely limit the number of titles available for branch placement

Budget and space limitations require a focus on materials that appeal to a broad range of users, rather than the academic, highly technical or otherwise specialised collections which are the mission of the area's universities and research institutions. Such material may be available on interloan.

Budget allocation by audience and format is based on public demand, usage statistics, and available resources, including physical space requirements. Collection items need not meet all selection criteria to be acceptable.

All material is purchased through contractual suppliers.

## **Selection Criteria:**

Selection priorities for the collection are as follows:

- Suitability of format for library use and content
- Suitability of subject and style for the intended audience
- Relation to the Library's existing collection and other material available on subject  
E.g. to ensure a range of views are available on a subject
- Authority, reputation, or qualifications of the author, artist, publisher, or producer
- Cost and availability
- Currency of information
- Attention of critics, reviewers, media, and the public
- Ongoing sustained interest and demand in a subject area

## **Formats:**

WCL actively seeks new ways of making resources available to meet various accessibility needs of the community by evaluating and integrating emerging formats and communication technologies where appropriate and economically feasible.

## **Quality and Quantity:**

Suggested items and self-published material are not automatically added to the collection, and all suggestions for purchase are subject to the same criteria as other materials. Where possible additional copies of high demand titles will be added, however budget and space constraints may also apply

Authors are advised to partner with Wheelers or Unity Books to enable the library to purchase selected material.

Suggestions to buy outside the current or immediately previous publication year will be only be satisfied if stock is currently available with contractual suppliers and the request fulfils other selection criteria. The exception to this is History, where older publications may be considered. Suggestions to buy will not be purchased from author websites or online suppliers.

## **Replacements:**

Replacement material will be considered subject to the selection criteria. Budget and space constraints may apply

### **Exclusions:**

- **Car Manuals**- the remaining collection will be progressively withdrawn based on age and usage.
- **Professional level computer manuals**- these are too specialised for WCL's collection

### **Tools:**

- Reviewing journals
- Online catalogues
- Publishers' websites
- Subject related articles and websites
- Vendors selection carts and websites

### **Evaluation and Deselection:**

Frequency of circulation, community interest, and availability of newer and more up-to-date materials are of prime consideration in maintaining collection vitality, size, and scope

The Library maintains a policy of on-going de-selection based upon the elimination of:

- unnecessary items
- outdated materials
- materials no longer of interest or in demand
- duplicates
- worn or damaged copies

When newer editions are published in a subject area, where currency is of prime consideration, older editions will be deselected e.g. Computing, Health, Travel guides.

Some specialist collections e.g. Learning English may be subject to alternative evaluation criteria, such as demand over a longer period, age, condition and advice from Multi- Cultural specialist

### **Kept at Desk:**

Here are the main reasons to justify placing material as KAD:

1. Legal Requirement:
  - Classification placed on item by Film and Literature Classification Authority.

## 2. Pragmatic Decisions:

- It is at high risk of theft and, or mutilation
- Material that is “difficult” to house on the open shelves, e.g. Oversized, contains numerous inserts of varying shapes and sizes, pop-up.
- Material by an author or of this type tends to go ‘missing’ so keeping it at the desk means that it will be available for customers when they want it

### **Criteria for transfer to Stack:**

Items transferred to the Central Stack should be restricted to:

- A final copy of material of enduring interest in consultation with the appropriate selector. (For New Zealand material see guidance in New Zealand CAP)

### **Related Documents:**

The following are links to working documents which are updated regularly

- [Collection Policy](#)
- [Current buying responsibilities](#)

**Date of last review:** January 2018



## Purpose

This policy is intended to:

- Guide the development and management of Wellington City Libraries collections
- Define the library's legal requirements and responsibilities
- Inform customers on how the collections are developed and managed

## Scope

This policy applies to all the collections held across 12 libraries and the online resources. More detailed statements relating to specific collections exist in the Collection Area Profiles. The policy will be reviewed for currency and relevance every 3 years.

## Background

Wellington City Libraries is a public lending library serving the residents of Wellington City, the capital city of New Zealand, with a population of 204,000 (2013).

Wellington City Libraries consists of the Central Library, eleven branches and a virtual library at [wcl.govt.nz](http://wcl.govt.nz). The libraries function as one network.

Wellington is also home to the National Library of New Zealand, the Alexander Turnbull Library and Victoria and Massey University libraries, which provide research and archival services for the city.

Wellington enjoys a rich cultural and social diversity, and the library's ongoing goal is to remain responsive to all areas of our communities. The focus is expressed in the Mission Statement 'to connect our communities to knowledge, wonder and possibilities.'

Libraries and Community Spaces foster innovation: we are open for thinking, reading, creativity and business.

## Guiding principles

Wellington City Libraries' collections are shaped by a variety of factors, including publishing trends and authors who are consistently in demand, as well as collection usage information and feedback from customers (such as survey responses, suggestions for purchase, and general comments). The emphasis is on a current lending collection rather than the retention of items just in case of future demand.

### **Wellington City Libraries provides collections in a range of formats representing the diversity of views suited to our communities and that meet their current and anticipated needs**

- Collections support customers in their need for lifelong learning and the development of skills and knowledge
- Collections support recreational and leisure interests of the communities
- Collections support the communities' participation in the democratic process at local and national levels

## **Wellington City Libraries collects and preserves material unique to Wellington**

- Collections reflect the local culture, history and creative output

## **Wellington City Libraries is committed to freedom and equity of access to information in line with relevant legislation**

- Free access to information includes the removal of barriers to accessibility
- Equity of access includes addressing the needs of those who do not have access to the internet at home
- Resources are provided in a variety of formats including an increasing range of digital resources. The library will continue to explore new collection products and platforms
- The library endorses the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto which states that “*Collections and services should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressures.*”
- It also endorses the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) statements on Access to Information and Intellectual Freedom: *No library materials should be censored, restricted, removed from libraries, or have access denied to them because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval or pressure.*

## **Wellington City Libraries commits to partnership with Tangata Whenua**

- Wellington City Council and the library aim to work with Wellington Māori to strengthen the capability of all to achieve mutually beneficial community outcomes
- The library through its Collection Policy underpins the services which support the aspirations and needs of Wellington Māori
- The library promotes te reo Māori and provides access to Māori knowledge, heritage and identity

## **Wellington City Libraries provides best value**

- The concept of ‘best value’ includes economic, social and cultural value
- The library ensures the best value for Wellington ratepayers by exercising fiscal responsibility in collection development
- The library commits to making cost effective collection management decisions, balancing renewal of the collection with the retention of key items for the future
- Best value for customers includes providing resources for those who cannot afford them
- The library regularly measures the usage of collections to ensure they deliver value for money

## **Collection Management guidelines**

### **Collections**

The collections are managed as one. Central Library collections contain the broadest coverage of material in the network. Last copies of titles worthy of retention will be relocated from branches to the appropriate Central Library collection.

Some resources are not available for browsing on the open shelves and are stored at the Central Library where they may be retrieved by staff for customer in-house use or borrowing.

The library has a number of collections or taonga including:

- Maori Collection: there is core collection at the Central Library and a selection of essential resources at the branches
- New Zealand Reference Collection located at the Central Library
- Local history collections found across the network

and also the following which are excluded from the scope of this policy.

- Rare Book Collection  
The Rare Cook Collection consists of c.2000 items, approximately 60% of which are of New Zealand origin or contain New Zealand content. It contains a number of first editions as well as several incunabula dating back to the 15th Century.
- Photographs and Ephemera  
This collection consists of approximately 2000-2500 items. The library plans to adopt the cloud-based *Recollect* platform which will enable digital copies to be easily accessible to the public online.

## **Selection**

Wellington City Libraries' lending collections follow the guiding principles, and focus mainly on new and popular works, incorporating the following criteria:

- responding to customer and community demand and local interest
- continuing relevance to the Wellington community
- suitable library format
- the quality of the item, with reference to the average expected price

Multiple copies and new editions are selected based on customer demand, anticipated popularity and already prescribed standing orders.

Duplication of any title in multiple formats is dependent on availability and suitability for the anticipated customer group.

## **Evaluation**

Collection items are regularly reviewed for retention using the following criteria:

- Relevance to users
- Currency of content
- Physical condition
- Usage (lending collections)

Every attempt will be made to replace material in poor condition which is still in demand.



## Deselection and disposal

Library staff have the delegated authority to dispose of library collection assets following the guidelines above, supplemented by the relevant Collection Area Profiles. Materials that are no longer required may be:

- Sold in a library book sale
- Recycled or otherwise disposed of

## Donations

- Offers of donations need to meet the Collection criteria and cannot be accepted without prior arrangement with the Collection Development Team
- Second-hand material will not be accepted, except for items of historic significance and titles in foreign languages
- Donations, once added to the collection, are managed like all other material and are subject to the same conditions of loan, use and retention
- Donations that do not meet the collection criteria will be disposed of at the library's discretion and will not be returned to the donor

## Legislation

- Library collection development and management is carried out in accordance with The [Copyright Act 1994](#) and the [Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993](#)

## Definitions

Term	Definition
Collection	Refers to the libraries' resources, in both print or digital form. The term may also be used to describe a part of, or the whole of these resources.
Collection Development	The process of planning and building collections. Collection development is subject to budget allocations for new material.
Collection Management	This includes all activities relating to the maintenance of a library's collection.
Collection Area Profiles	These documents are an internal tool used by staff to ensure the quality of the overall libraries' collection and outline the selection, maintenance and disposal criteria for each part of collection.
Copyright	Copyright is an intellectual property right which gives the owner the exclusive right to reproduce a copyright work. Copyright in New Zealand is protected under the <a href="#">Copyright Act 1994</a> .
Deselection	Deselection is the process of assessment of items for possible removal from the collection taking into account currency, usage and physical condition. The process can also be called weeding or disposal.
eLibrary	This term collectively describes those books, serials, databases and other information published in digital form which are part of the library's collection. Some electronic or online resources may not have a printed equivalent.

Format	The medium by which information is presented and accessed. It includes print (books and serials) as well as electronic – CDs, DVDs, eBooks, eMagazines and online databases.
Reference	(Also known as ‘not for loan’). Not for loan items are those items that will not be available for customers to borrow or remove from the library.
Serials	A term used to refer to magazines.
Selection	The process of deciding which materials should be added to a library collection.
Subscription databases	Searchable electronic resources accessed online and paid for by annual subscription.

## Related documents

- [Wellington Long Term Plan](#)
- [Library Service vision](#)
- Collection Area Profiles
- [Copyright Act 1994](#)
- [Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993](#)
- [Lianza copyright guidelines](#)
- [Lianza statement on access to information](#)
- [Lianza statement on intellectual freedom](#)
- [Lianza statement on services to Pacific peoples](#)
- [Lianza statement on services to children and young people](#)

### [Unesco public library manifesto](#)

#### **A gateway to knowledge**

Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and individuals are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society.

Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information.

The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.

This Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.

UNESCO therefore encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries.

## **The Public Library**

The Public Library is the local centre of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users.

The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those who cannot, for whatever reason, use the regular services and materials, for example linguistic minorities, people with disabilities or people in hospital or prison.

All age groups must find material relevant to their needs. Collections and services have to include all types of appropriate media and modern technologies as well as traditional materials. High quality and relevance to local needs and conditions are fundamental.

Material must reflect current trends and the evolution of society, as well as the memory of human endeavour and imagination.

Collections and services should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressure.