

Pollard Memorial Library
Local History
Collection Policy

It is the general policy of the Pollard Memorial Library to acquire, as far as is possible and practical, and as funds allow, at least one copy for reference use of all books contributing to knowledge of local history comprising the area of the current city of Lowell and its past boundaries as part of Chelmsford, Tewksbury, and Dracut. Material not relating solely to the Lowell area may be added to the Local History collection, at the discretion of the Head of Reference and the Local History Department Librarian. Examples are local histories from nearby towns, such as Chelmsford, Tewksbury, Dracut, Westford, and Billerica, materials on Middlesex County, and material on topics of great interest such as genealogy, the Civil War, and general Massachusetts histories. Materials are acquired usually through purchases from publishers and through donations. The Library maintains a collection of the works of Lowell authors, both past and present.

This general policy is considerably broader in scope than strictly historical. Emphasis is also given to the acquisition of those materials which will contribute to knowledge of the social, civic, religious, economic, and cultural life, both past and present. Materials to be collected include books, diaries, yearbooks, pamphlets, newsletters, newspapers, bulletins, periodicals, reports, letters, speeches, manuscripts, documents, maps, atlases, clippings, postcards, photographs, slides, films, videotapes, sound recordings, electronic materials, paintings, art reproductions and prints, posters, stereo views, genealogical records, minutes, memorabilia and ephemera such as commemorative programs and advertisements.. The Library reserves the right to decide whether a proposed gift is to be added to its collection.

Museum objects are generally not collected, except in limited number for display or interpretation purposes. Inexpensive display objects to promote and interpret the collection may be acquired.

Archival collections of minutes, etc from local associations, institutions, etc to be stored in the Library and used only by members of the association, are not accepted into the collection.

Non-Lowell Topics of Special Interest:

- Chelmsford (prior to 1826)
- Tewksbury (prior to 1834)
- Dracut (prior to 1851)
- Middlesex County
- The Civil War
- New England Town Histories
- Genealogy materials, including vital records, how-to books and family histories