Arrowhead Library System
Audio and EBook Selection Policy

The Selection Committee consists of Arrowhead Library System staff and representatives from the public libraries in the Arrowhead Library System.

In choosing titles in digital format, the selection committee aims for a balance between offering popular materials and those that are in line with the institutional goals of public libraries (education, entertainment, outreach, how-to and instructional categories) as well as titles to meet the needs across varying audiences.

General criteria for selecting digital content both eBooks and audio books include (an item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable)

- public demand, interest or need (currently ALS will purchase one title per month per patron based upon a patron recommendation)
- contemporary significance, popular interest or permanent value
- attention of critics and reviewers
- prominence, authority and/or competence of author or creator
- timeliness of material
- relation to existing collections

In choosing titles the Committee also uses traditional print and online library review sources.

Digital Content is sold differently from most other library materials. Not all titles are available in the digital format; we are also limited to those titles that are published by our current contractual partner. Pricing models vary based upon various circulation models, such as metered access which limits the number of checkouts for a title, and this will have an impact on the decision to purchase some digital content. The following provides some additional selection guidance:

- ALS will purchase the format that has the broadest compatibility with various devices. For example, ALS will not purchase Adobe PDF as this is limited to a PC or Mac computer.
- Additional copies of purchased content that has no circulation restrictions will be ordered automatically when a certain determined holds threshold is reached based upon available funds.
- ALS will purchase metered access content if a selector adds this to his or her cart. If a selector wishes to add an additional metered access copy of a title, he or she must add it to his or her cart as this content is not ordered automatically based upon a holds threshold. A selector would do this based upon accumulated holds.

Approved by the ALS Governing Board 12/10/2015