

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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NORTH PARTNER LIBRARY
10 VAN BUREN ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.716.4098

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Date: February 10, 2020
To: Rapid City Public Library Board
From: Terri Davis, Library Director
Re: Genealogy Collection

Recommendation: In order to comply with the library's Collection Development policy and accommodate the library's collection needs, the collections owned by the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research (Society) should be reduced in size and scope based on the availability of alternate and online resources and collection use.

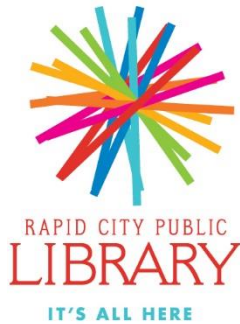
Background: The Society's genealogy collections have been housed at the downtown library since at least 2000. During that time, the collections have been moved and downsized a number of times based on the library's needs for its own collection space. The Society's collections have been located in the northeast corner of the main floor, and in the spaces currently occupied by the Chaos makerspace, the Friends' book store in the solarium, and the vending alcove. The collections were significantly downsized by the Society when moved to the solarium and alcove, due to collection use and the space limitations.

Summary: The value of genealogical resources is not in question, but the Society's collections need to be maintained per the Collection Development policy, as other library collections are. By focusing the Society's collections to include only Rapid City school yearbooks, general genealogical reference titles, South Dakota county histories, Native American resources, Black Hills pioneer stories, and those items not available online, the collection would be more relevant to the majority of library users.

Alternate and Online Resources

The Rapid City Public Library provides access to the following print and online genealogical resources:

- Ancestry Library Edition
 - Billions of records to research family history
- Fold3 Library Edition
 - Millions of records from world-class archives of US military records, including service men and women's stories, photos, and personal documents
- HeritageQuest
 - Over 25,000 family and local history books, and census records from 1790-1940
- Newspapers.com
 - Full-text and image Rapid City Journal (1886-current), and indexes for hundreds of other US newspapers
- RCPL Collections
 - General genealogy reference titles, the South Dakota collection, and local history collection and print and digital archives
- South Dakota State Historical Society
 - Census and cemetery records, county guides, military records, manuscripts, naturalization records, etc.



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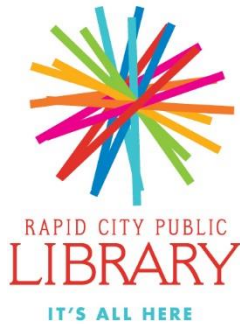
Collection Use

'Browsing' is a standard library practice to track item use for materials that are not checked out, and provides insights about use when checkout data is not available. All library collections, even those eligible for checkout, are tracked this way to determine use.

In 2019, 29 titles in the 1,511 item Genealogy collection were browsed a total of 31 times. As shown on the following table, this collection is underutilized when compared to all other library collections.

Category	Collection Size	Times Browsed	Titles Used	% of Titles Browsed
Genealogy Collection	1,511	31	29	1.92%
Literacy Council*	1,421	131	113	7.95%
Drama	177	40	34	19.21%
Poetry	486	182	125	25.72%
History	2,795	1,121	731	26.15%
Political Science	880	408	234	26.59%
Biography	3,176	1,489	871	27.42%
Business & Economics	1,243	559	343	27.59%
South Dakota	2,517	1,146	736	29.24%
Transportation	166	73	50	30.12%
Home	1,117	568	358	32.05%
Performing Arts	386	247	131	33.94%
Travel	608	361	209	34.38%
Language	208	101	72	34.62%
Art	650	352	226	34.77%
Social Science	958	619	340	35.49%
Math & Science	849	529	304	35.81%
Music	349	203	126	36.10%
Education	508	330	185	36.42%
Language Arts	741	424	270	36.44%
Nature	410	246	151	36.83%
Religion	1,621	1,104	617	38.06%
Animals	770	435	295	38.31%
Humor	365	254	141	38.63%
Crafts & Hobbies	1,427	811	552	38.68%
Self Help	1,000	663	391	39.10%
Technology	263	153	104	39.54%
Sports & Recreation	460	335	182	39.57%
Family & Relationships	556	412	232	41.73%
Beauty & Fashion	160	108	67	41.88%
Food & Drink	1,380	1,036	592	42.90%
True Crime	462	350	199	43.07%
Health & Fitness	1,033	789	461	44.63%
Graphic Novel	1,616	1,236	729	45.11%

*The Literacy Council collection was previously downsized to fit in the same amount of space being recommended for the Society's collections.



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Collection Development Policy

The Collection Development Policy establishes criteria for the selection and maintenance of library material. Items are selected at a level to meet the basic needs of the community rather than a level suitable for comprehensive research. Selection criteria from the policy that are influencing this recommendation include:

- Community demand, interest, or need
 - Use of the Society's collections has been demonstrated to be low
- Value or diversity of material in relation to existing collections
 - Online resources duplicate much of the Society's information
- Space and budgetary considerations
 - The collection fills significant space that could be utilized by popular library collections

Regular weeding of library material is an essential part of maintaining a viable and useful collection, by making it easier to navigate collections and locate material. All library collections are regularly weeded on a rotating schedule. Factors considered when weeding material include availability of the material in other formats, poor physical condition, low or no use, and space considerations.