



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.4171

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Date: July 13, 2020
To: RCPL Board of Trustees
From: Judy Sneller, Policy Committee Vice Chair
Re: Genealogy Agreement

Date: July 6, 2020
To: Judy Sneller, Policy Committee Vice Chair
From: Terri Davis, Library Director
Re: Genealogy Agreement

Motion: Move to approve the revised agreement with the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research as presented.

Background: The original agreement with the Genealogy Society dating from 2005 required updating and a specific term.

The Society and members of library management worked together to draft a revised agreement, which was reviewed by the City Attorney. After review from the Genealogy Society board, representatives then submitted multiple changes, many of which negatively impact the Board's policy making authority, and management's ability to appropriately operate a community-focused public library:

- The Society wanted their collections to be non-circulating. While this is contrary to the majority of the library's collections, use of the genealogy collections is very low, and the library agreed to this request.
- The library had included collection priorities in the agreement, but the Society recommended these priorities be removed. The library agreed to this removal as the community focus which had been outlined in the priorities is referred to several times in the Collection Development policy.
- The Society wanted to determine the location and scope of shelving for their collections; the library must make those determinations based on the collection needs as a whole based on demonstrable community use.
- The Society wanted to be involved in revisions to the collection development policy. Per state law, the Library Board has the authority for determining policy. An unfortunate precedent would be set if an outside party were to develop collection standards that are intended to provide appropriate materials for the entire community.
- The Society wanted the City to insure their materials. For the Society to purchase a rider on the City's policy would likely be significantly more expensive than their own insurance policy; in addition, the deductible on the City's insurance policy is \$50,000. The Society's own insurance should cover their materials wherever they are located.

If the Society and the Library Board cannot agree to the terms of this revised agreement, either party can invoke the termination clause (60-days' written notice) as outlined in the 2005 MOU.

2019 use statistics of all the collections are shown below. In the time since the library was closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Society removed their materials to conduct an inventory, there have been no patron requests to use any of the genealogy materials.

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 relevant criteria from the Collection Development Policy are:

- 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