

Should we get that? Selecting religious materials for public libraries.

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Saint Paul Public Library
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Theoretical Principles of Selection

How selection works... (in theory)

“Collection management in general—and decision making for collection development in particular—has been characterized as a highly **logical, rational** process that is primarily based on cognitive factors like **attention, perception, memory, and reasoning**”

(from: Quinn, Brian. "Cognitive And Affective Processes In Collection Development." *Library Resources & Technical Services* 51.1 (2007): 5-15.)

How selection works...in practice

“A significant element of subjectivity and guesswork makes collection development decisions vulnerable to typical human shortcomings such as emotion, bias, impulsivity, and caprice.” (*Ibid.*, p. 7)

Contrast effect and overcorrection!

Guiding Principles

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of **all people** of the community the library serves. **Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.**
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting **all points of view** on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should **challenge censorship** in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

Freedom to Read

- It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.
- Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. **It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated**
- It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

Full statement at: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement>

Institutional Guidelines

Collection Management Policy



The goals of the collection are to support the Library's mission, vision, and strategic framework by providing materials and resources that meet the **learning, information, education, and entertainment needs of our community**.

The Library emphasizes **breadth over depth, unabridged over abridged and general materials over specialized, scholarly, and professional materials**. Budget and space restrictions preclude the Library from duplicating the specialized and comprehensive collections that exist elsewhere in the region. The Library is fully committed to providing access to these specialized materials through referral, cooperative agreements, and resource sharing through interlibrary loan. The Library does not serve as an archive for the City of Saint Paul or any organization.

Collection Supports Library Mission and Vision

Mission

We connect people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime.

Vision

We are a cornerstone of a thriving city: welcoming people of all ages and cultures; strengthening neighborhoods and learning networks; and inspiring all with the world of ideas.

Strategic Goals:

- We Advance Saint Paul's Learning Priorities
- We Are Sound Stewards of Public and Private Funds
- Our Libraries are Active Centers of Engaged Communities

And finally...selection criteria



*"The collection should reflect the **diversity of the community**, providing information in a variety of formats and at multiple levels of complexity. Patron **requests and neighborhood needs** are integral to the selection process, resulting in patron driven acquisition of materials.*

There is no single set of selection criteria that can be applied in all cases. The Library's general selection criteria include:

Selection criteria, continued



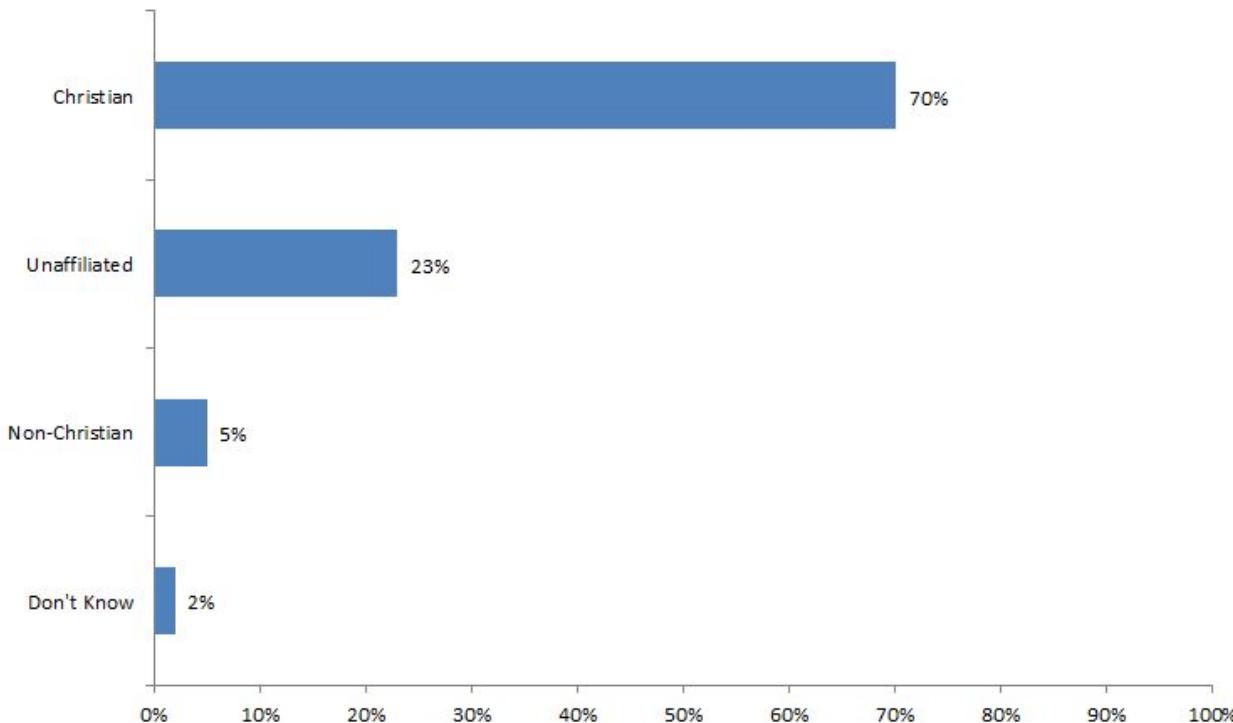
- *support of the Library's mission, vision and strategic framework*
- *representation of diverse points of view*
- *currency, timeliness and accuracy of the content*
- *public demand*
- *relevance to the community*
- *relation to the existing collection*
- *cost*
- *positive professional reviews"*



- 1) Know your community
- 2) Know your community's needs and interests
- 3) Decision-making framework
- 4) Providing access vs purchasing

Know Your Community

MSP Area Religious Groups by Percentage



Adults in the Minneapolis metro area



Religious composition of adults in the Minneapolis metro area



Adults in Minnesota



Religious composition of adults in Minnesota



Community Needs and Interests

SUGGEST A TITLE

We welcome suggestions for titles to add to the Saint Paul Public Library collection.

If you would like to suggest an item for purchase, please use this form.

Before filling out this form: Please [check the library catalog](#) first.

E-books: Please suggest e-books directly through the [OverDrive](#) or [Cloud Library](#) (both services will show additional e-book titles that are available for the library to purchase and loan).

Your Suggestion for Purchase

Please do not send multiple requests for the same title.

Title: *

Decision-making framework

ANN VOSKAMP
New York Times bestselling author

THE
BROKEN
WAY

a daring path into the abundant life



The Broken Way by Ann Voskamp
Zondervan, 2016
\$22.99
LC Subjects: Christian Life, Grace (theology), Christianity, Despair

ANN VOSKAMP
New York Times bestselling author

THE
BROKEN
WAY

a daring path into the abundant life



- 1) Intellectual Freedom
- 2) Collection Principles
 - Support Mission and Vision
 - Learning, informational, educational needs of the community?
 - General over specific?
- 3) Selection Criteria
 - Represent diverse points of view?
 - Current, timely, accurate?
 - Is there public demand?
 - What is its relation to existing collection?
 - Is the cost prohibitive?
 - Positive professional reviews?

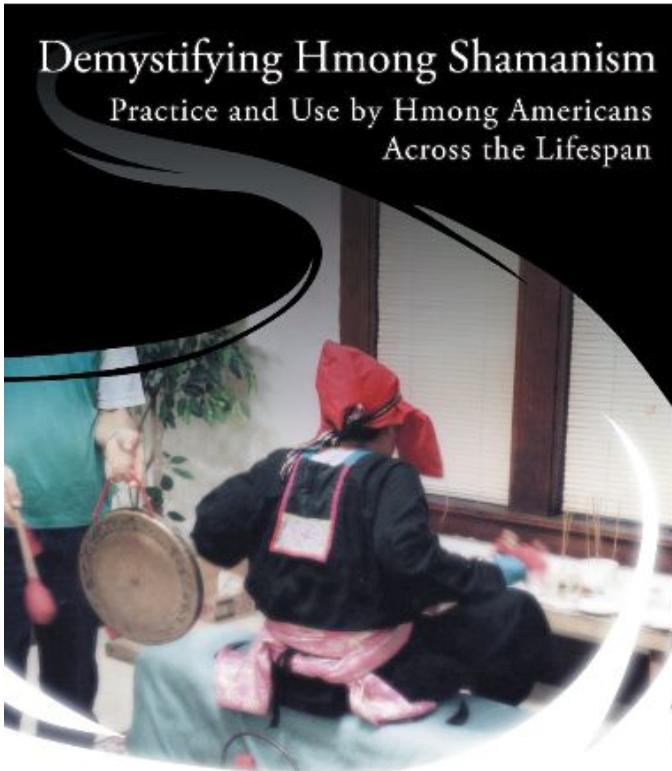
Demystifying Hmong Shamanism

Practice and Use by Hmong Americans
Across the Lifespan



Linda A. Gerdner
with Shoua V. Xiong

*Demystifying Hmong Shamanism: Practice and Use
By Hmong Americans Across the Lifespan* by Linda
A. Gerdner and Shoua V. Xiong
Bauu Institute, 2015
\$21.95
LC Subjects: *Hmong Americans Religion,
Shamanism United States*



Linda A. Gerdner
with Shoua V. Xiong

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RABBI DOVBER PINSON

RECLAIMING THE SELF

ON THE PATHWAY OF TESHUVAH

Reclaiming the Self by Rabbi DovBer Pinson
Iyyun Publishing, 2011
\$29.76
LC Subjects: *Judaism-Theology, Judaism-Kabbalah*
& *Mysticism, Judaism - Repentance*

RABBI DOVBER PINSON

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ON THE PATHWAY OF TESHUVAH

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Providing Access

Mnlink.org → available to anyone with MN library card (free in-state, varies for national requests)

Enables libraries to meet specific needs while maintaining broad overall collection



<https://mnlink.org/>