Library Roles

No library has a large enough budget, staff or collection to meet **all** the service needs of its community. No library can fulfill all roles with excellence, so each library must focus its resources on a limited number of roles. It is necessary to select 1 or 2 roles for primary emphasis and 1 or 2 roles for secondary emphasis. Roles not chosen for emphasis become maintenance roles. Maintenance does not mean that a role will be cut off or ignored. It does mean that role will not be developed or serve as the focus of a new library initiative for the present planning cycle. Following are the roles selected for emphasis at the Leon Public Library:

PRIMARY ROLES

1. Popular Materials Center - The library features current high-demand, high-interest materials in a variety of formats (books, videos, paperbacks, tapes) for persons of all ages. It is important to note that this role applies to popular materials for children and young adults as well as adults. It should also be noted that "popular materials" is not defined as fiction titles only, but also includes AV and non-fiction. Any material that is current, high-demand or high-interest is considered a popular material.

2. Formal Education Support Center (for elementary and secondary students) - The library assists students in meeting educational objectives during their **formal** courses of study. The library offers tours for classes and instructs students on using library tools, supplements materials available in school, and is an alternate study site. This role is accomplished by providing reference materials, periodicals, indexes, and access to interlibrary loan. Cooperation between the library and school is also important.

SECONDARY ROLES

1. Preschoolers Door to Learning - The library encourages young children to develop an interest in reading and learning through services for children, and for parents and children together. This role targets pre-school children and their parents. Emphasis is placed on reading readiness, parenting, child care and child development.

2. Independent Learning Center - The library supports individuals of all ages pursuing a sustained program of learning independent of any educational provider. These individuals set their own objectives to meet such concerns as citizen education, self-improvement, job-related development, hobbies and cultural interest. Examples of possible interest areas are "how to write a resume", "STEAM activities", "coding", and "technology in today's world."

Reviewed and approved 1/9/2018
Reviewed and approved 12/8/2020
Reviewed and approved 7/11/23