

SUGGEST A PURCHASE

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I suggest something for the library collection?

The library welcomes suggestions for our collection! We've created an easy to use form on our website. Our Selection Librarians look over every suggestion carefully and make decisions based on SCPL's [Collection Development Policy](#).

Can I suggest the library buy more books on a topic, or by a specific author or performer?

Absolutely! Suggestions like "more kids books on zebras", "audiobooks performed by Simon Vance", "more music CDs from Bob Dylan", "more graphic novels in Spanish" are all welcome. Just provide the useful details in the notes field when filling out the Suggest a Purchase form.

Can I suggest the library purchase a title as an eBook or eAudiobook? What other materials can be suggested?

Yes, library borrowers can suggest digital content for purchase. We also accept suggestions for books, audiobooks, graphic novels, DVDs, Music CDs, and magazines & newspapers.

Why do I need to check the library catalog for an item before I submit a purchase suggestion?

Checking to see if we already have a title means not only that you get your materials faster but it also helps the library keep focus on expanding and enhancing our collection.

I'd like to suggest the library purchase a DVD, Music CD, or Magazine/Periodical. What genre should I select to describe my title?

"None" will usually be the best option to select when suggesting titles matching these materials, however any genre that feels most appropriate when describing your suggestion is fine. We'll make sure the right Selection Librarian reviews your suggestion.

I like interacting with an actual staff member, is that still an option?

We welcome collection suggestions in person at all of our Branches and through Telephone Information. Just give us a call or stop by the Service Desk during your visit.

What if I don't own a computer?

Your suggestion is welcome and valued. Stop by the Service Desk of any library branch or call Telephone Information to share your suggestion.

How will I know if the Library has decided to purchase my suggestion?

When filling out the Suggest a Purchase form, you'll have the option of entering your email address. Our Selection Librarians will carefully review your suggestion and make decisions based on SCPL's [Collection Development Policy](#). You'll receive an email about their decision as soon as it's been determined.

What if I don't have an email address?

At this point in time, we are only offering updates on purchase suggestions through email. You'll still have the option of checking in with library staff by visiting the Service Desk at any branch or by calling Telephone Information to ask about the status of your suggestion.

Will the library place my suggestion for purchase as a hold on my account?

Library borrowers are responsible for placing requests on library materials. This can be done in several ways, whether through the catalog on our website, by visiting the Service Desk at any library branch, or by calling Telephone Information.

If the library purchases the title I've suggested, when will I see it in the catalog?

If our Selection Librarians are able to add your suggestion to the collection, you'll generally see it in the catalog within a couple of weeks or so. However this can vary when considering publishing dates and availability from our vendors.

How else can I access my suggestion if the library decides not to purchase it?

You may wish to consider [Interlibrary Loan](#) as an alternative. Interlibrary loan is the process by which a library requests material from, or supplies material to, another library. It is only available to library borrowers in good standing and for print materials published more than 12 months ago. Contact Library Staff to learn more about Interlibrary Loan.

I'd like to suggest the library purchase something that hasn't been released or published yet, how does that work?

We would love to hear your suggestions for forthcoming titles, though we cannot accept suggestions earlier than 2 months before a publication or release date.

I'm a local author, should I use this form?

We love to hear from local authors. You can suggest your publication using this form. There is an option at the top of the form to indicate that you are a local author.

Why did the library change this process?

SCPL values inclusiveness and wants to make suggesting a purchase easier for our patrons. Previous to this form, there was no formal way to suggest additions to the library collection on our website. We wanted to create a more inclusive experience for library patrons by creating an easy way to communicate what you'd like to see more of in the library collection.