# libraries ni

## Heritage Policy

Date: August 2020

Review Date: August 2023

| Policy Information | |
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| **Policy Title** | *Heritage Policy* |
| **Policy Number** | *POL026* |
| **Version** | *Version 3 (May 2020)* |
| **Policy Sponsor** | *The Deputy Head of Service with responsibility for Collections* |
| **Policy Owner** | *The Service Development Manager with responsibility for this area* |
| **Committee and date recommended for approval** | *Services Committee, 6 August 2020* |
| **Date approved by the Board** | *20 August 2020* |
| **Equality Screening Status** | *1. Screened: 14 January 2014*<br>*2. Screening Reviewed: 5 January 2017*<br>*3. Screening Reviewed: 11 May 2020* |
| **Rural Needs Impact Assessment Status** | *1. Assessed: 11 May 2020* |
| **Date Set For Review** | *August 2023* |
| **Related Policies** | • *Children and Young People's Services Policy*<br>• *Community Information Policy*<br>• *Customer Feedback Policy*<br>• *Digital Inclusion Policy*<br>• *Engaging with Culture and Creativity Policy*<br>• *Policy for the Loan and Use of Heritage and Other Assets*<br>• *Partnership Policy*<br>• *Reading and Reader Development Policy*<br>• *Stock Policy* |

**Libraries NI**

**Heritage Policy**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 "Libraries record our past, help us understand our present and sow the seeds of our future" (Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries, 2006).

1.2 Public libraries in Northern Ireland have a long tradition of collecting and preserving material which relates to our cultural heritage. Heritage collections include resources of interest to all communities in Northern Ireland and beyond. Access to cultural heritage, both local and national can enrich society through nurturing creativity, imagination, reflecting our past and a sense of place and this can help promote community cohesion and increase understanding of cultural diversity.

1.3 Libraries NI's unique Heritage collections include books, maps, archives, newspapers, journals, microfilm and other material and complement collections held by other institutions.

1.4 Libraries NI provides Heritage resources in all libraries with larger collections in designated Heritage locations.

1.5 This policy is concerned with the collection, preservation and exploitation of this important material and with ensuring its accessibility to the widest possible audiences for a broad range of purposes.

1.6 In implementing this policy Libraries NI contributes to a number of the Programme for Government Outcomes and to Together Building a United Community (T:BUC, the Executive's strategy for improving community relations and building a united and shared society).

## 2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to heritage services.

## 3. Policy

3.1 Libraries NI will:
- ensure the continued collection, preservation and exploitation of heritage materials relevant to and reflective of the diverse range of communities in Northern Ireland
- provide access to the heritage resources in all libraries, to the widest possible audiences and facilitate increased participation in the heritage services through community engagement

- collaborate with and/or work in partnership with other organisations and agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to ensure the acquisition, preservation, exploitation and accessibility of heritage resources reflecting the existing and new communities and cultures of Northern Ireland.

## 4. Authority

**Policy Sponsor:** The Deputy Head of Service with responsibility for Collections is the Policy Sponsor.

**Policy Owner:** The Service Development Manager with responsibility for this area is the Policy Owner.

**Policy Contact:** The Manager with responsibility for this area is the Policy Contact.

## 5. Related Documents

**Policies**
- Children's and Young People's Services Policy
- Community Information Policy
- Customer Feedback Policy
- Digital Inclusion Policy
- Engaging with Culture and Creativity Policy
- Policy for the Loan and Use of Heritage and Other Assets
- Partnership Policy
- Reading and Reader Development Policy
- Stock Policy

**Procedures**
- Customer Feedback procedures
- Procedures for Managing Film Requests