



Heritage Policy

Date: *19 January 2017*

Review Date: *January 2020*

Policy Title	<i>Heritage Policy</i>
Policy Number	<i>POL026</i>
Policy Author/Owner	<i>The Head of Themes with responsibility for Culture and Heritage</i>
Committee	<i>Services</i>
Date Approved	<i>23 February 2017</i>
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Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Children’s and Young People’s Services Policy</i> • <i>Engaging with Culture and Creativity Policy</i> • <i>Partnership Policy</i> • <i>Reading and Reader Development Policy</i> • <i>Stock Policy</i>
Date Set For Review	<i>January 2017</i>

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 printed material which relates to our cultural heritage and include resources of interest to all communities in Northern Ireland and beyond. Access to cultural heritage, both local and national, enriches society through nurturing creativity, imagination, pride in our past and a sense of place as well as promoting community cohesion and increasing understanding of cultural diversity.
- 1.3 Libraries NI unique Heritage collections include books, maps, archives, newspapers, journals, microfilm and other material and complement collections held by other institutions.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 material relevant to Northern Ireland
 - provide access to the heritage material to the widest possible audiences through a range of means
 - collaborate with other organisations and agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to ensure the acquisition, preservation, exploitation and accessibility of heritage material.

4. **Authority**

Policy Sponsor: The Assistant Director with responsibility for Culture and Heritage is the Policy Sponsor.

Policy Owner: The Head of Themes with responsibility for Culture and Heritage is the Policy Owner.

Policy Contact: The Senior Themes Manager for Heritage is the Policy Contact.

5. **Related Documents**

Policies

- Children's and Young People's Services Policy
- Engaging with Culture and Creativity Policy
- Partnership Policy
- Reading and Reader Development Policy
- Stock Policy

Procedures

- Collection Development Procedures
- Disaster Plans and Procedures