

# PALOMAR COLLEGE LIBRARY

Learning for Success

## Rare Books Selection Policy

In this policy rare books are defined as individual books or other material of exceptional value or rarity. Collection of rare books is not a goal of Palomar College Library. Although the library does not actively solicit or acquire rare materials, it does seek to identify and properly house those materials that are donated to it. The following guidelines are designed to govern the acquisition of these items.

The library will accept the donation of a rare book based on the [General Resource Materials Selection Policy](#), and the [Serials Selection Policy](#). When evaluating material dealing with San Diego or the state of California, consideration also will be given to its possible use by community users of the Library.

Library faculty will consider these categories of materials for the rare book collection:

1. Rare or irreplaceable books
  - a. Important limited editions
  - b. Significant association copies or autographed books
  - c. Rare or ephemeral material, especially related to California or San Diego
2. Books of aesthetic importance
  - a. Fine printing
  - b. Fine binding
  - c. Fine illustrations or plates
3. Books which by their nature may be subject to loss or damage
  - a. Books of high monetary value
  - b. Miniature books
  - c. Folio or plate books
  - d. Erotica or esoterica
4. Rare or special non-book material
  - a. Manuscripts
  - b. Broadsides and posters
  - c. Rare newspapers
  - d. Rare maps
  - e. Realia
5. Special Collections
  - a. Material of sufficient importance as a collection to be held together even though individual items may be neither rare nor valuable. An example is Palomar's collection of nineteenth-century books on health, aging, and longevity.

In accordance with general policy, Palomar College Library accepts donations under guidelines specified in the [General Resource Materials Selection Policy](#) and [Donations Policy](#). If a book or other item does not meet the terms of this policy, the librarians may offer it to another library in whose collection the work would better fit.

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