



Boston Free Library Book Donation Policy

The Boston Free Library welcomes your donated books, audio books, DVDs, and music. Donations in good condition may be added to the Library's collection or sold by the Friends of the Boston Library. Proceeds from book sales help fund programs and services.

Book Donation Guidelines:

We will accept:

- Books (hardcover and paperback) in good condition. Newer titles (published within the past 10 years) are preferred.
- DVDs and CDs (commercially published only)
- Large print books
- Vinyl Records in good condition
- Puzzles and games with all pieces in good condition

We cannot accept:

- Boxes that have been moved directly from long term storage to the Library. We cannot accept boxes of books that have not been properly inspected by the donor.
- Large quantities of books that are not in boxes or containers.
- Damaged books with broken bindings, missing pages, soiled, musty, moldy, with smoke or water damage, or with excessive writing in the text, or clearly outdated materials.
- Clearly outdated materials (see below for guidelines)
- Toys
- Condensed books (Reader's Digest)
- Academic Journals
- Encyclopedias
- Textbooks
- Non-commercially produced DVDs and CDs
- Workbooks or study guides that are partially or wholly filled in
- Computer programs

We accept certain materials within specified limits:

- Price guides and almanacs (current within the last 2 years)
- Medical and financial advice books (less than 10 years old)
- Travel guidebooks (less than 5 years old)
- Computer manuals (less than 5 years old)
- Test preparation guides (less than 5 years old)

Frequently Asked Questions

When does the Boston Free Library accept donations?

- Please bring donations of books inside of Boston Free Library's lobby during open hours.
- Large donations may be accepted provided that the materials meet the criteria listed above and the library has adequate space for storage.
- For assistance with larger donations (more than 3 cartons or boxes), stop by the desk or call 716-941-3516 to make an appointment. We may not be able to accept excessively large donations. Also, once our inventory needs have been met, we may decline to accept donations.

Can I obtain a receipt and claim a charitable donation?

- We do not determine the value of the donation. Receipts can be provided designating the quantity of materials donated. Please ask for a receipt at the front desk when dropping off donations.

What happens to the items I donate?

- Once books have been donated, they become property of the Boston Free Library. When appropriate, the library may add gift items to its collection; however, gifts of books and other materials will be accepted with the understanding that the Boston Free Library reserves the right to add them to the collection, distribute them to other libraries, sell them in our book sale, give them away, or, when appropriate, discard them.

Contact us:

- If you have a question about a particular item or item(s) you wish to donate please contact the library at 716-941-3516. Specific questions will be referred to the Library Director.

Thank you for your cooperation and, as always, thank you for your support of the Boston Free Library!