

PORTAGE DISTRICT LIBRARY

Heritage Room Collections and Use Policies

Collections Policy

The Local Historian will, at his/her discretion, accept donations of materials for the Heritage Room that complement existing collections, add to the history of the immediate community and surrounding areas, and/or develop collections of specific interest to the library, provided no restrictions are attached to their use, display or disposition.

- 1) At the discretion of the Local Historian, materials may be added to the Heritage Room Collection through gifts, purchases or trades from individuals or institutions, or by deposit from various governmental bodies.
- 2) In regards to donations, the Local Historian reserves the right to reject any material if said material is deemed to be unsuitable for the Heritage Room Collection by reason of subject, format, condition, or restrictions.
- 3) For every donation received, a Deed of Gift Agreement must be filled out by the Local Historian and then signed by both the Local Historian and the Donor. This Deed of Gift Agreement must also include a concise inventory of items received and a list of any restrictions placed on said donations (see number 4). Any items left for the Local Historian that do not have contact information will be treated solely as a gift and will fall under Collections Policy number 2.
- 4) If restrictions are requested on a donation, they will be listed on the Deed of Gift Agreement and will be reviewed by the both the Local Historian and the Portage District Library Director to determine if the item(s) will be accepted or declined due to the nature of said restrictions verses the historical value of said donation.
- 5) Items which are accepted into the Heritage Room Collection become the sole property of the Portage District Library and will be available for use by the general public. If at any time after acceptance an item is determined to be outside the scope of the Heritage Room Collection, it may be deaccessioned and disposed of according to the terms of the Material Disposition Form which accompanies the Deed of Gift. Deaccessioning will take place after a review by both the Local Historian and the Portage District Library Director.

Use Policies

1) The use of rare or fragile materials by the general public shall be determined by the Local Historian and may be limited under certain circumstances (see NOTE). Copies of the original items will be provided in lieu of the primary source material when original materials are deemed to be too fragile or rare for use.

NOTE – Reasons for limiting access to original materials may be, but are not limited to, fragility of said materials, rarity of said materials, and/or value of said materials.

2) For patron ease of locating material within the Heritage Room, all Heritage Room books shall be catalogued in the same manner as other Portage District Library materials and shall receive a distinguishing label of “H.R.” on their spine. Items determined to be of a unique historical character or of great monetary value shall receive a special archival book-mark containing relevant information in lieu of the standard library sticker labels.

3) Heritage Room Archival material may not be loaned from the Portage District Library without the written permission of the Local Historian and the approval of the Portage District Library Director. Heritage Room reference books may be checked out by Portage District Library card holders but will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Local Historian. The checkout time for Heritage Room material is two weeks. Items will be checked out and checked in solely by the Local Historian.

4) Due to space restrictions within the Heritage Room, items may not be placed on long term loan to the Heritage Room. Items loaned to the Heritage Room for display or copying purposes shall not exceed a loan period of six weeks. Each loaned item will be documented in writing with a copy given to the loaner, a copy accompanying the item while in possession of the Heritage Room and a copy placed in the Heritage Rooms master loan file.