



Plymouth Library Services

Donations policy



In 1941 many thousands of books in the Central Library were destroyed by enemy action. Lady Astor wrote to *The Times* asking for donations to replace them. Many of those donations have resulted in the present fine collections of older books in the Central Library.

These years of experience with donations have yielded insights as to what types of materials are useful and how Library staff can manage them effectively.

Although the Library Service is sincerely grateful for the generosity of individuals who wish to donate material, experience has taught us that a few restrictions are necessary.

- We reserve the right to accept, reject, sell or otherwise dispose of donated materials.
- We apply the same objective selection criteria to donated items as we do to those we buy.
- We are unable to inform donors of the usage patterns of items added to stock.

These materials are not accepted unless we judge they are of significant historical value:

- Items printed on poor quality paper, affected by sun, damp, staining or mildew will not be accepted.
- Technical and scientific books, textbooks and encyclopaedias more than five years old.
- Magazines and Reader's Digest Condensed Books.