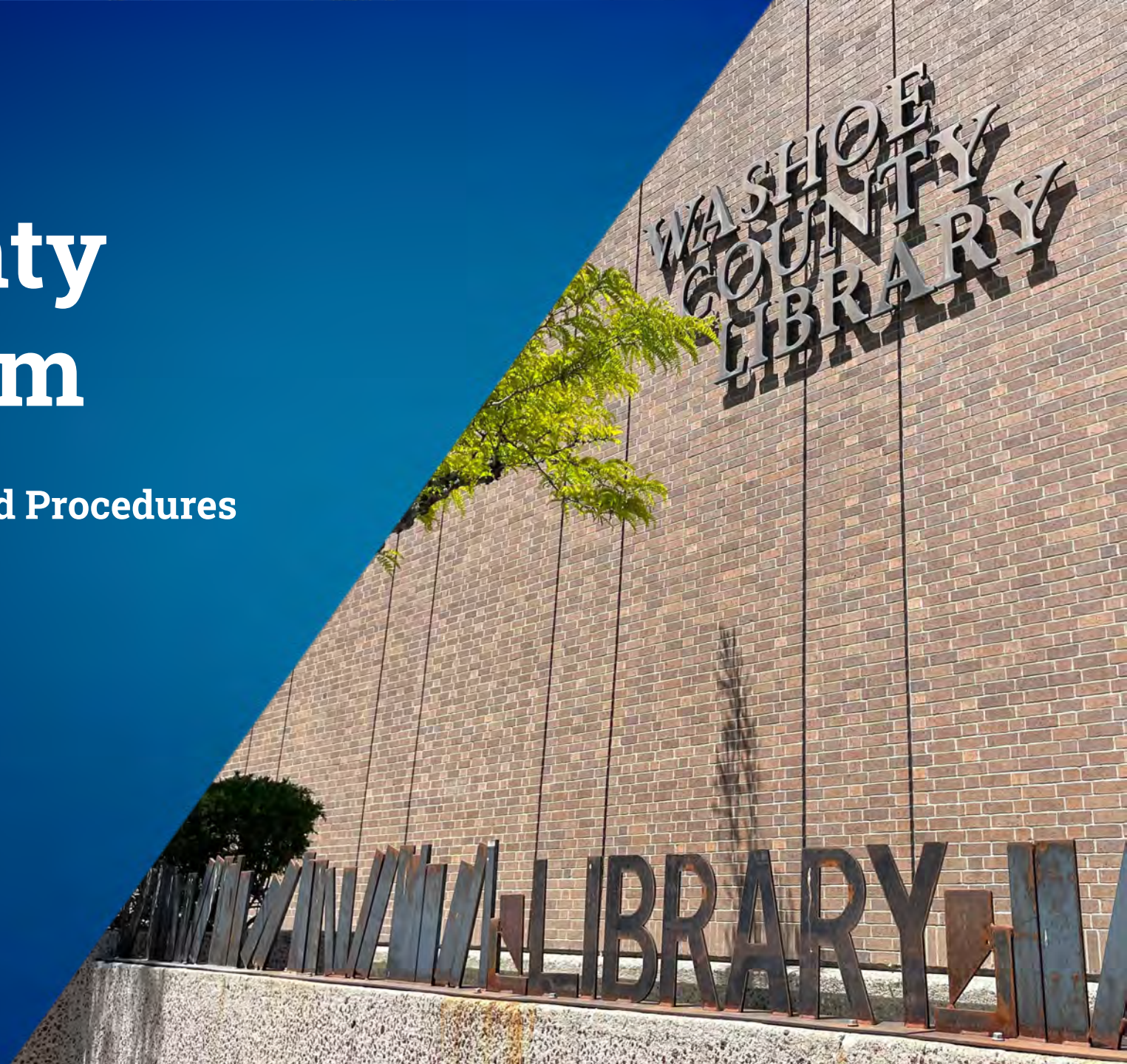
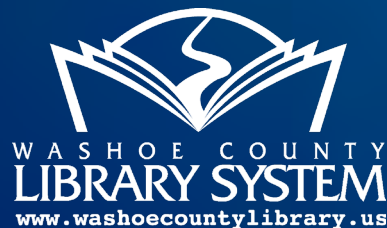


Washoe County Library System

Collection Development Policy and Procedures





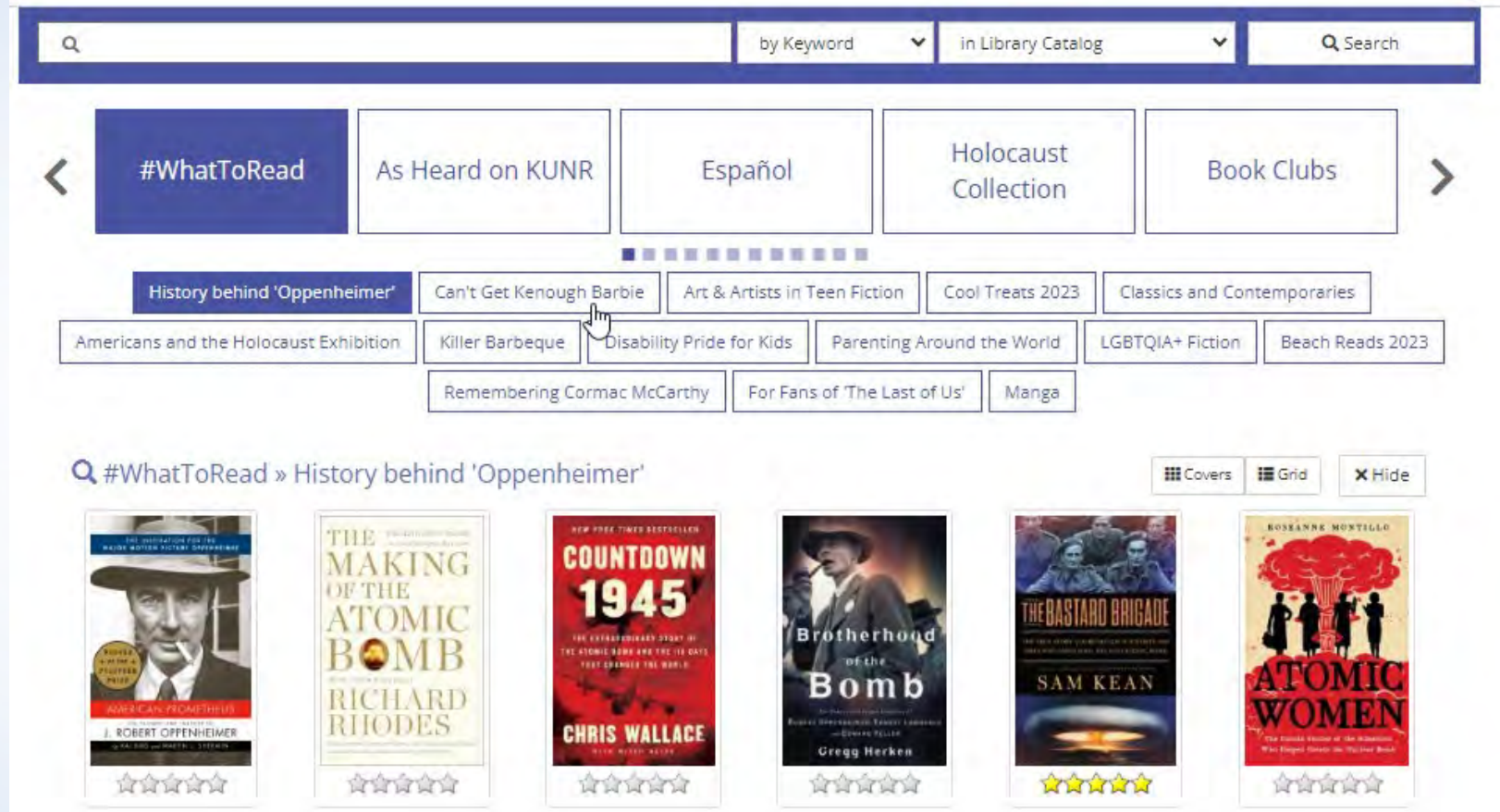
Collection Development Mission: Curate a collection of library materials to reflect the needs and interests of our community

- 478,000 volumes across 12 branches + “digital branch”
- 1,978,000 checkouts during Fiscal Year 2023
- Fiscal Year 2023 Materials Spending: \$1,014,720
- Added 39,212 physical items and 17,571 eBook/eAudio copies

Forecasting New Titles – 86% of purchases

- Past performance of author nationally and locally
- Editorial book reviews
- Tracking of national presale orders
- Order as early as a year in advance and monitor the number of holds to determine number of copies needed
- Goal is to have title on the shelf on street date

Library Catalog as Discovery Tool



The screenshot displays the Washoe County Library System catalog interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon, followed by dropdown menus for "by Keyword" and "in Library Catalog", and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, a horizontal navigation bar features several categories: "#WhatToRead" (highlighted in blue), "As Heard on KUNR", "Español", "Holocaust Collection", and "Book Clubs". A series of small blue squares indicates the current selection. Below this, a grid of topic tags is shown, including "History behind 'Oppenheimer'", "Can't Get Enough Barbie", "Art & Artists in Teen Fiction", "Cool Treats 2023", "Classics and Contemporaries", "Americans and the Holocaust Exhibition", "Killer Barbeque", "Disability Pride for Kids", "Parenting Around the World", "LGBTQIA+ Fiction", "Beach Reads 2023", "Remembering Cormac McCarthy", "For Fans of 'The Last of Us'", and "Manga". A mouse cursor is hovering over the "Disability Pride for Kids" tag. Below the tags, the selected category "#WhatToRead » History behind 'Oppenheimer'" is displayed. To the right of the category name are three buttons: "Covers", "Grid", and "X Hide". The main content area shows a list of six book covers, each with a star rating below it:

- AMERICAN PROMETHEUS** by J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER (5 stars)
- THE MAKING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB** by RICHARD RHODES (5 stars)
- COUNTDOWN 1945** by CHRIS WALLACE (5 stars)
- Brotherhood of the Bomb** by Gregg Herken (5 stars)
- THE BASTARD BRIGADE** by SAM KEAN (5 stars)
- ATOMIC WOMEN** by ROSANNE MONTILLO (5 stars)

Seeking Community Input – 14% of purchases

Didn't find it?

Can't find what you are looking for? Try our Materials Request Service.

[Submit Request](#)

- Purchase requests fill any gaps in collection
- More than 600 requests/month
- Interlibrary loan available for titles we don't purchase



Collection Development Policy Highlights

Scope of Collection: Current and popular

Criteria for materials:

- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Attention by critics and expert reviewers
- Reputation and significance of author
- Cost
- Consideration of work as a whole
- Representation of diverse points of view and opinions



Reconsideration of Library Materials

- Formal process for community members to challenge an item in the collection
- Library Director responds in writing
- User may appeal decision to Library Board of Trustees



History of challenges

- 2015 Scientology DVD
- 2023 "Johnny the Walrus"



Current censorship threats

- Hate speech found in books
- Censorship by hiding materials

Thank you

