

CASE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 3

Plymouth Public Library

Plymouth Public Library is located in a small mid-western town of 6,000. It is a member of a regional public library network of twelve public libraries, each serving towns of similar size. The libraries share a union online catalog and have a twice-weekly delivery service between the libraries. The Plymouth Public Library has a collection of 22,500 volumes and 110 current subscriptions. The library has a small special collection focusing on Iowa authors and local history. Two public terminals provide access to the union catalog and the Internet. Through the regional library system, on-site patrons can access OCLC's WorldCat and Infotrac SearchBank. A full-time professional librarian, Sharon Vernon, who reports to the town's library board, manages the library. She has 2.5 full-time staff members, none of whom has a graduate library degree. One assistant, Nancy Anderson, has primary responsibility for children's programming and materials selection. Sharon selects all other materials. The annual materials budget is \$25,000, of which \$12,000 is spent on serials. The library has limited space and little hope of expansion or a new building. Plymouth has a consolidated elementary and high school, which draws students from farms

and the nearby Native American reservation. The schools share a small media center, which contains basic reference materials, fifteen current magazines, and approximately 5,000 volumes of juvenile and young adult fiction and nonfiction. The school's English teachers regularly give the public library a list of novels that are being read in the high school. Students depend on the public library for most of their school research projects. Farming is the primary source of income, along with allied businesses. Plymouth is the county seat and the location of the county courthouse and jail. Approximately seventy-five people live in the Plymouth nursing home and rehabilitation center.

Activity

Prepare an outline for a collection policy statement and identify any supplemental policies that should be included. Identify stakeholders who might be consulted in writing the policy. Suggest the fund lines and subaccounts for a budget, which will parallel the policy and support the purposes of budgets to plan, coordinate, and control library activities through expenditures.