

## Carroll, Holly

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**From:** Kim Newcomer <kim@slatecommunications.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2015 10:49 AM  
**To:** Carroll, Holly; Amanda Quijano  
**Subject:** Needs Assessment - Collections  
**Attachments:** PRPL Final Report.pdf

Hello!

First things first: Holly, I hope you had a lovely trip!

As you are both aware, I've been in contact with each of you related to the Library Needs Assessment, particularly whether or not Collections should appear as a Strategic Planning Topic. Originally, because Collections is integrated into so many other topics, we did not call specific attention to the item.

After reviewing the document and data, I feel comfortable highlighting Collections as an item independent of Convenience. Much of the highlighted data under convenience already speaks to Collections, but I can see how it might get lost under the broad heading. That said, I will let you and the Board make the final decision as to whether or not to alter the final needs assessment document. Again, the intention of this effort was to help define high priority issues of the community, which would then act as a starting point for your strategic planning process.

If you choose to move forward with the edit, I would recommend inserting the following Topic after Convenience:

### COLLECTIONS

A major component of convenience is related to collections. The feedback is simple: library users want timely access to the exact resource they want, i.e., "I want what I want, when I want it." Managing the reality of meeting this demand, however, is quite complex. Successful collections policy requires professional expertise and must consider the realities of budgets as well as the needs of the community.

- When forced to choose between more books or more book drops, residents strongly supported more books (91%). That said, more book drops was a key theme in the comments.
- 49% of respondents said that the type of material (printed or digital) didn't matter, they use both to get what they want.
- There is overwhelming support for improving and increasing the Library District's collection. On average, respondents were willing to spend a full \$51 dollars of a \$100 budget on materials (books, printed materials, digital material, etc.).
- "Lack of desired material" was sited among the top five barriers to Library use.

Discussion Item: What factors need to be considered when evaluating the District's collections strategy? What role should the Board play in identifying potential improvements to the District's current collection? What other high-level decisions might impact (directly or indirectly) the District's ability to implement their collections strategy?