13.7 Local History Collection

A. Purpose: New Hanover County’s Local History collection centralizes and organizes the historical materials and records of New Hanover County and its environs through collecting, cataloging, preserving, protecting, and restoring when necessary, those records and materials pertaining to the history of the people and events within the community. A North Carolina collection is maintained to allow the citizens of New Hanover County access, within a restricted and controlled environment, to information regarding their state. The collection shall be developed for community use. Special materials and archival collections are maintained only if they can be made available to the general public and relate to the people and events of southeastern North Carolina.

B. Scope: The New Hanover County Local History Collection is the depository for documents and material which relate to the history and current development of New Hanover County, which includes Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, Kure Beach, Carolina Beach and the unincorporated areas.
   1) The collection is not limited to any one format, but includes books, pamphlets, maps, photographs, magazine articles, brochures, newspapers, video recordings, compacts discs, oral histories, city directories, genealogies, manuscript collections, memorabilia, microforms, school yearbooks, theses and dissertations, and government documents associated with New Hanover County.
   2) Only non-book materials which have a direct relationship to New Hanover County and environs are included in the collection. The library does not collect artifacts.
   3) A general North Carolina collection of books is maintained to provide the citizens of New Hanover County information about their state, both past and present. This collection is not intended to provide in-depth information.
   4) Genealogical materials are collected from across the state with the major concentration on eastern North Carolina. Included are materials from coastal Virginia, South Carolina and other Atlantic seaboard states because of their ancestral connections to southeastern North Carolina. Some nationwide indices, i.e., census and immigration records, are purchased to respond to the demand of new local residents.
   5) The New Hanover County Public Library collects both fiction and nonfiction works of authors who write about the area.

C. Responsibility for Selection: The Library Director delegates the management of Local History collection development activities to designated Local History professional staff.

D. Criteria for Selection: See 13.0 Collection Development (D); additional criteria include:
   1) Cultural importance of the material.
   2) Relationship to Southeastern North Carolina.

E. Selection Tools: See 13.0 Collection Development (E); additional selection tools include:
   1) Book reviews including, but not limited to, North Carolina Historical Review, North Genealogical Journal, National Genealogical Society Journal, and Bulletin of the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies.
   2) Titles recommended by local historians and genealogists.

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F. Formats: See 13.0 Collection Development (F)

G. Consortia: See 13.0 Collection Development (G)

H. Interlibrary Loan: See 13.0 Collection Development (H)

I. Deselection: See 13.0 Collection Development (I); additional considerations include:
   1) Material in the Local History Collection is retained indefinitely