

Somers Library Local Author Policy

The Somers Library is committed to supporting and showcasing the work of local authors as part of our mission to reflect the interests and talents of our community. This policy outlines the criteria and procedures for authors wishing to contribute their published works to our Local Author Collection.

Definition of “Local Author”

For the purposes of this policy, a "local author" is defined as a published author or book illustrator who:

- Resides or has resided within the boundaries of the **Somers, NY**
- Authors living just outside the district but with strong ties to the community may be considered at the discretion of library staff. Areas may include Westchester County and/or Lower Hudson Valley.

Submission, Evaluation and Acceptance

- Authors may contribute up to two books per calendar year.
- Works must be professionally bound and able to withstand at least 20 readings or circulations.
- Children’s Picture Books: Page count and content are evaluated case-by-case by the Youth Services Librarian
- **No audio or multimedia formats** (e.g., cassettes, CDs, or DVDs) will be accepted.
- Works by authors under age 18 may be accepted at the discretion of the Youth Services Librarian, Adult Services Librarian, Branch Manager, or Library Director.

All submissions will be evaluated by library staff based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and interest to the Somers community
- Literary merit and quality of writing
- Alignment with the Library’s **Collection Development Policy**

Acceptance into the collection is not guaranteed. Specific feedback on submissions cannot be provided, though general reasons for non-acceptance may be shared upon request.

If accepted, one copy of the work will be added to the collection and designated as **“Local Author”** in the Library’s catalog.

Donations, Rights, and Removal

All donated materials, including works by local authors, become the unconditional property of the Library upon acceptance and are subject to our Collection Development policy and Gift Policy ([Using Library – Somers Library Your Library in the park](#)). Items not selected for the collection may be sold by the Friends of the Library or otherwise disposed of at the Library’s discretion.

The Library reserves the right to:

- Decline any submission
- Remove any title from the collection at any time, in accordance with our Collection Development Policy
- Decline materials based on format, condition, or content

A letter of acknowledgment can be provided upon request; however, the Library cannot assign monetary value to donations.

Promotion of Local Authors

Accepted authors may be considered for **library events**, such as:

- Local Author Book Fairs
- Readings or signings
- Community literary celebrations

Participation is not guaranteed and depends on the availability of programming.

Agreement

By submitting their work, authors acknowledge and agree to the terms outlined in this policy. The Somers Library is honored to share and celebrate the literary voices of our local community. This policy will be **reviewed annually** to ensure it remains relevant and effective in supporting local authors and serving the needs of the Somers community.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on July 16th, 2025.