

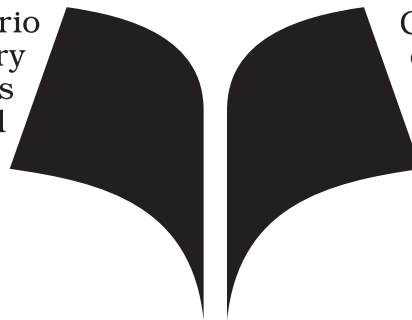
Ontario Public Library

# Guidelines

*Fourth Edition*

For Municipal and County Public Libraries

Ontario  
Public Library  
Guidelines  
Monitoring and  
Accreditation Council



Conseil de l'agrément  
et du contrôle des Lignes  
directrices pour les  
bibliothèques publiques  
de l'Ontario

## ***Editorial Team***

ADMINISTRATORS OF MEDIUM PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF ONTARIO  
*Representative: Margaret Williams*

ADMINISTRATORS OF RURAL/URBAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF ONTARIO  
*Representative: Margaret Rule*

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
*Representative: Marzio Apolloni*

ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*Representative: Elise Cole*

ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE-NORTH  
*Representative: John Slater*

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
*Representative: Rod Sawyer*

SOUTHERN ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE  
*Representative: Peggy Malcolm*

NORTHERN ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
*Representative: Nancy Leindecker*

SMALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
*Representative: Shann Leighton*

© 2007 Ontario Library Service-North

Ontario Library Service-North  
334 Regent Street  
Sudbury, Ontario  
Canada P3C 4E2

Telephone (705) 675-6467  
Fax (705) 675-2285  
<http://www.olsn.ca>

ISBN: 978-0-9783041-7-1

<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
I.	Introduction	1
II.	How the Guidelines May be Used	4
III.	Guidelines Checklist	7
Appendix A	Support and Resources	
Appendix B	Aids to Measurement	
Appendix C	Core Reference Tools	
Appendix D	Meeting the Community Analysis Requirements of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines	

## ***Background***

The Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council is pleased to present the Fourth Edition of the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines* on this tenth anniversary of the first publication in 1997.

The guidelines presented represent community-based norms for public libraries and public library development in Ontario. They are developed, monitored and revised by a broadly-based group, representative of the Ontario public library community.

The *Guidelines* aim to assist public libraries in developing and maintaining consistently strong public library service. They provide public library boards, managers and staff and local governments with up-to-date public library guidelines on policies, resources and services.

The *Ontario Public Library Guidelines* program provides an accreditation process to recognize the achievement of public libraries that meet the program's requirements. The *Guidelines* offer voluntary standards that individual public libraries can choose to follow or exceed, regardless of whether or not they decide to pursue accreditation.

As with previous revisions, this Fourth Edition represents an important and on-going process of refining the *Guidelines*, removing parts that are no longer relevant and making additions where necessary to reflect the ever changing environment in which libraries operate today.

With this edition, a separate version has been produced for the first time specifically for use by Ontario's First Nation public libraries. The development of a First Nations version of the *Guidelines* was a response to requests from the community for library guidelines that better reflect a First Nation public library context.