

Ontario Public Library

Guidelines

Fifth Edition

For Municipal and County Public
Libraries



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ISBN:

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Background

The Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council is pleased to present the Fifth Edition of the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines*, 2010.

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.

With the Fourth Edition, a separate version was 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. Following the publication of the Fifth Edition, the First Nations version will be similarly modified and published in the near future.

Note on the Fifth Edition

Technology now permeates the work of the public library to such an extent that the need to revise the *Guidelines* to give more detailed attention to that area became evident. Council received funding to develop a new section on technology from the Ontario Ministry of Culture's 2008 \$15 million investment in public libraries. It was agreed that because technological issues also impact the guidelines' existing six sections, a new edition should be published. However, it should be noted that the Fifth Edition primarily focuses on modifying and expanding guidelines relating to the use of technology in public libraries. It does not attempt a comprehensive revision of all the guidelines, which will be the subject of a future revision which is scheduled for publication in 2012.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture in funding this project within the Ministry's 2008 \$15 million investment in public libraries.