

To Our Patrons,

The High Plains Library District is making some changes in how we handle donations, book sales, and magazine swaps. We wanted to explain the reasons for the changes, and provide you with options.

### **What are the changes?**

- We will continue to accept donated books, but with some limitations.
- We will no longer sell books in the library.
- Some of the donated books will be sold to a third party vendor.
- We will no longer be providing a magazine swap.

### **What kind of donations are accepted?**

- We prefer no more than one box per visit.
- Items should be newer than 10 years old.
- Items should be in good condition.
- Please no older media such as VHS, cassettes and albums
- Please no encyclopedias, textbooks or reference books.

### **Why are donations being limited?**

- Sad to say, most donated books are not suitable for reselling. They must be recycled. The cost of recycling is high.
- Space is at a premium in most of our libraries. Allocating space is becoming increasingly harder.
- Sorting donations requires a lot of time for staff to sort, evaluate and maintain.

### **What happens to books that I donate?**

- Some may be added to the library collection.
- Some may be used to supplement prize giveaways for various events.
- Some go to a vendor called Thrift Books, who pay us for the books.
- Items that cannot be managed in one of these other options will be recycled.

### **Why is Thrift Books a better option?**

- Using Thrift Books avoids the problems of space and staff time noted above.
- The rate of return for Thrift Books is greater than returns from book sales.
- Funds received from Thrift Books go to the High Plains Library District Foundation. In 2015, 18% of the Foundation's revenue was generated through Thrift Books.
- Foundation funds are used to support programs and services of the library district.

### **What are some other options for donations and getting books at low cost?**

- As noted, we will continue to accept donations. But we can also refer you to other locations that are able to accept a greater variety of donations.
- You can purchase books on-line from Thrift Books ([www.thriftbooks.com](http://www.thriftbooks.com)). We'll be glad to help you sign up.
- Remember that the main purpose of a library is to help you find books and other materials at no cost. Ask us!