

Core Collection for Knitting at Wasilla Public Library

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The knitting collection at the Wasilla Public Library is being revamped following the start of a knitting club that meets at the library once a month. The mission statement from the Wasilla Public Library website is:

Set in the beautiful Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Wasilla Public Library is open to residents and visitors alike. The library contributes to building a sense of community and provides opportunities for improving quality of life by providing access to a broad range of resources designed to meet the educational, professional, intellectual, cultural and recreational needs of the area's diverse, rapidly growing population.

The new knitting collection will meet the recreational and professional needs of the local community by providing them with resources. The patrons will gain access to instructional books, magazines, and a plethora of videos from Craftsyt.com. The cost breakdown follows in Table 1.

Table 1: Materials and Cost for Knitting Collection

Title & Format	Cost
Print Books	
<i>The Knitter's Book of Knowledge</i> by Debbie Bliss	\$29.95
<i>The Knitter's Book of Yarn</i> by Clara Parkes	\$30.00
<i>Vogue Knitting</i> edited by Vogue Knitting Magazine Editors	\$39.95
<i>Alterknit Stitch Dictionary</i> by Andrea Rangel	\$26.99
<i>The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns</i> by Ann Budd	\$26.95
<i>Jorid Linvik's Big Book of Knitted Socks</i> by Jorid Linvik	\$27.95
<i>Knitted Lace of Estonia</i> by Nancy Bush	\$26.95
<i>Fair Isle Knitting</i> by Carina Olsson	\$31.95
Ebook	
<i>Japanese Knitting Stitch Bible</i> by Hitomi Shida	\$16.95
<i>One-Skein Wonders for Babies</i> edited by Judith Durant	\$65.00 for 2 yr.
Print Magazine	
Knitting Magazine	\$144.12 for 18 mo.

Web Resource	
Craftsy	\$478.40 for 1 yr. approx.
Total	\$945.16

Selection Criteria

Items were chosen following the guidelines in the WPL collections development policy:

1. The author's reputation and significance as a writer.
2. The importance of subject matter to the collection.
3. Availability of material in other libraries or in print.
4. Timeliness or permanence of the book.
5. Authoritativeness.
6. Inclusion in standard bibliographies or indexes.
7. Price.
8. Demand.
9. Format, including quality of binding, type, legibility and illustrations.

Although each item did not meet every criterion, this list is intended as an aid to collection decision-making, and not all are required. Selection decisions were made through consulting various knitting blogs and websites for favorite books and magazines, then looking through professional reviews of the items that were found on multiple sites. Knitting can be applied to various clothing and toys, so the collection was broadened to ensure it included the most common uses – baby knits, gloves, hats, scarves, shawls, socks, and sweaters. There are also styles of knitting from different regions of the world and the collection shows that diversity. The knitting club could attract both beginner and experienced knitters, so the collection includes books catering to a wide range of skills.

Formats were chosen based on availability and likely use. The Alaska Digital Library consortium, which WPL is a part of, pays a flat fee for Overdrive magazine subscriptions annually. This catalog includes seven knitting magazines plus specials. So, the WPL should not pay separately for digital magazine subscriptions. Based on usage statistics, there is demand for both print and ebooks, but ebooks are circulated less frequently. Also, according to Rothschild (2020), ebooks cost, on average, 3.5 times more for libraries, and that upcharge is reflected for those ebooks that did not have library pricing data readily available. Ebooks were chosen when hardback copies were unavailable.

WPL Core Knitting Collection

Print Books:

Bliss, D. (2015). *The knitter's book of knowledge: A complete guide to essential knitting techniques* (Illustrated edition). Union Square & Co.

Bliss is experienced at creating hand-knit patterns and has written multiple books on the topic. She brings that knowledge to this reference book. Bliss covers casting on, knitting variations, designs, troubleshooting, and everything in between with illustrations to guide the reader.

This instructional work is necessary for new knitters to learn the basics and can be used by experienced knitters to improve their craft as well.

Budd, A. (2004). *The knitter's handy book of sweater patterns: Basic designs in multiple sizes & gauges*. Interweave.

Budd's book covers different types of sweaters with 15 sizes and five gauges provided for each. It also includes a chapter on adjusting the patterns for body measurements and gauges outside of the templates.

The WPL collection would benefit from the inclusion of this book because the patterns are simple for beginner knitters and can be adjusted by advanced knitters for additional colors. This is a good instructional book for knitting sweaters.

Bush, N. (2010). *Knitted lace of Estonia: Techniques, patterns, and traditions*. Interweave Press.

Bush gives an overview of the history of Estonian lace knitting and follows it with historic and contemporary shawl designs. The patterns are very elegant and Bush gives a walkthrough of how to accomplish them.

This guide fills the lace knitting hole in the collection and includes beautiful shawl patterns. Unfortunately, it is unavailable in hardback or ebook format.

Linvik, J. (2017). *Jorid Linvik's Big Book of Knitted Socks: 45 Distinctive Scandinavian Patterns*. Trafalgar Square Books.

Despite the title, Linvik draws inspiration for her patterns from many cultures, including African, Russian, Viking, and Nordic. She includes basic designs for beginners to use before advancing to her more complex geometric and animal designs.

Linvik's patterns are unique and show how to make socks for all ages. This is a great book for sock making-beginners and veterans.

Olsson, C. (2023). *Fair Isle Knitting: 22 Traditional Patterns from Where the Atlantic Meets the North Sea*. Trafalgar Square.

Olsson details the history and technique of Fair Isle knitting. Focused on advanced knitters, the book includes patterns for sweaters and accessories in the classic style.

Fair Isle is a popular knitting style. Including this book would showcase the knitting history and patterns of the Shetland Islands.

Parkes, C. (2007). *The knitter's book of yarn: The ultimate guide to choosing, using, and enjoying yarn*. Potter Craft.

Parke's book is a yarn guide, showing which type of yarn works for different projects. She uses her experience as a knitter and researcher to dive deep into the story of each type of yarn and what it is best suited for. She includes patterns to emphasize the uniqueness of different skeins so you can use your new knowledge immediately. Yarn is a necessary part of any knitting endeavor, so this guide is a must-have for experienced and new knitters alike.

Rangel, A. (2017). *Alterknit stitch dictionary: 200 modern knitting motifs*. Krause Craft.

This stitch dictionary includes beautiful colorwork designs. These patterns can be applied to any type of project, and each is pictured in a large swatch that shows the full pattern. There are instructional pages on colorwork theory so knitters without prior knowledge can learn the fundamentals of working with multiple colors.

With its inclusion of colorwork principles and 200 designs from bees to geometric patterns, experienced knitters from the WPL community will enjoy this addition.

Vogue Knitting Magazine (Ed.). (2018). *Vogue knitting: The ultimate knitting book; Completely revised & updated*. (Revised ed.). Sixth&Spring Books.

This revised edition of *Vogue Knitting* added design techniques for shawls, sweaters, and accessories and has a chapter dedicated to each. Its organization makes it welcoming to readers seeking to learn new techniques including cables, directional knitting, and more. It also includes professional design secrets from the editors.

This book takes knowledge from decades of magazines to bring the reader unique and fashionable knits, making it an excellent title for a core collection.

Ebooks:

Durant, J. (Ed.). (2015). *One-Skein Wonders® for Babies: 101 knitting projects for infants & toddlers*. Storey.

This book includes all sorts of baby clothing as well as accessories, toys, and blankets. It has both complex and simple patterns so knitters can create within their skill range and make unique ensembles for any babies in their lives.

Babies are never going to go out of style for knitters, so a book that includes clothing, toys, and blanket patterns is a solid purchase.

Shida, H. (2017). *Japanese knitting stitch bible: 260 exquisite patterns by Hitomi Shida* (G. Roehm, Trans.). Tuttle.

This book showcases Shida's difficult designs. Although the pattern charts are not directly accompanied by a key, a thorough symbol guide is provided. This book is not for beginner knitters but for advanced knitters looking for the extra challenge of Japanese knitting.

This is a well-reviewed book that showcases Japanese knitting. WPL should obtain the ebook through Overdrive with one copy one user style for \$16.95 – the same cost as the trade paperback version. Users will be able to zoom in on complex patterns and the ebook will not become worn.

Print Magazine:

Knitting Magazine. <https://www.knittingmag.com/>

This magazine is issued monthly with patterns from new and veteran designers. It is a UK-based magazine offering print and digital subscriptions.

As one of the only knitting magazines staying in print through 2024 and of high quality, this title is a must-have for the WPL collection.

Web Resource:

Craftsy.com

This website is full of tutorial videos and free patterns for knitting as well as other crafts, food, art, and living resources. It contains over 3,500 hours of video instruction with supplemental materials. The videos can be filtered by topic and skill level, so any level of knitter can find what they are looking for.

Craftsy access can be given to WPL patrons through Overdrive at a cost per circ basis of \$2.99 which gives the user one week of access to Crafts. The \$478.40 cost above is based on the approximate 160 craft ebook checkouts by WPL patrons annually, averaged over the past 5 years.

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