

Recommended Titles for the Core Collection
Preamble and Explanatory Notes

The *Recommended Titles for the Core Collection* has been developed by the Maryland Conference of Circuit Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD) as a guide for Maryland County and Circuit Court law libraries in the assessment and acquisition of materials to meet the [Maryland County Public Law Library Standards 2009](#) (CMCLLD, adopted June 2009). The *Standards* include a list of primary and secondary materials at the federal, state, and local level. The *Core Collection* list provides more specific suggestions for three areas more generally addressed in the *Standards* in Part VII, namely:

Part A. Maryland Publications, including state and local materials, includes:

A.11. Significant state-oriented legal treatise and practice materials

Part C. General United States Publications, which contains:

C.10. A basic collection of legal texts, treatises, practice materials and looseleaf services of contemporary value on subjects of interest to the legal community and the public; and

C.16. A collection of general legal and self-help titles on subjects of interest to the public and self-represented litigant.

These three sections, A.11., C.10., and C.16., form the *Recommended Titles for the Core Collection* (RTCC).

Organization of Material

The *Standards* list the three areas as *Maryland Titles Recommended for County Law Libraries*; *Recommended General Treatises for the Core Collection*; and, more generally, mentions a collection of legal and self-help titles. These three areas are combined in the *Core Collection* and organized by subject. Some subjects are broken down into subtopics where it is helpful to make a distinction. For each subject, materials are then listed as Maryland, General, or Self-Help.

Collection Goal

The lists should not be considered exhaustive, but rather a goal core collection, a starting point from which to further develop. Libraries should strive to collect the core recommendations. Once a satisfactory core collection has been acquired, libraries should consider further additions to the collection.

Format

Where materials are available in multiple formats, libraries should choose the format for each title that is best suited to the library's situation and needs.

Retention

Once a new edition has been published, a subscription has been cancelled, or the timeliness of a publication has lapsed, the title should be discarded or, if retained, labelled appropriately as *superseded*, *no longer updated*, or *retained for historical purposes*. In some instances, the list may suggest retaining a discontinued title, if already owned, as the text is still helpful for that topic of law.

Maryland Collection

The Maryland Collection contains specific titles recommended for the core collection. Additional titles beyond those listed, specific to Maryland and on a variety of topics, may be available.

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General Collection

As there are often numerous text choices within each general subject, the determination and selection of a specific title to acquire rests with the individual library. A list of suggested title options is provided for each topic and subtopic. In a few instances, where a particular title is the standard for that area, that unique title has been specified.

Self-Help Collection

The Self-Help Collection provides topics for which a library should have at least one title, as well as some materials uniquely identified as being important to the self-represented. The Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) provides the *General Legal and Self-Help Titles for the Public and Self-Represented Litigants: [A Supplement to the AALL County Public Law Library Standards](#)* (Rev. January 2026); this list may be helpful in selecting among available titles listed in Maryland's *Core Collection*. It should be noted that the GLL-SIS list is not state-specific; where a Maryland title exists, that would be the preferred acquisition.

A fully useful self-help collection will contain not only the materials but also an internet connection where websites on the list can be viewed.

List Updates

The list is updated periodically to reflect new information. Titles and topics may be added or removed as their relevancy changes.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria are weighed when determining the adoption of a resource into the recommended collections:

- Reliability, including citation frequency in case law and other legal texts, broad acceptance as an authority on a topic, and/or available from a reputable publisher
- General topical coverage
- Ease of contact with the publisher
- Currency of the contents
- Update frequency, dependability, and regularity

For Self-Help materials, the following were weighed in addition to the above:

- Readability (grade-level understanding)

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Publishers

ABA – American Bar Association
AILA – American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Law Institute
Aspen
Blue360 Media
Carolina Academic Press
Data Trace
George T. Biesel Co.
Harvard Law Review
HRSimple
Internet
JurisNet
Lawbook Exchange
Lexis
MSBA – Maryland State Bar Association
National Consumer Law Center
Nolo
Oxford University Press
PLI – Practicing Law Institute
RIA
Thomson Reuters
Warren Gorham & Lamont
West Academic
Wolters Kluwer