

YAKIMA VALLEY  
REGIONAL LIBRARY

## Sorry, Madonna fans — no 'Sex' in the library

Local History

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YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

# No nudes is good news, local library says

By MARK WALKER

Of the Herald-Republic

Madonna fans in Yakima will have to shell out \$49.95 plus tax if they want to view her provocative tome, "Sex," now that the Yakima Valley Regional Library has decided against buying the controversial book.

Library director Dick Ostrander said a committee of library employees unanimously opposed ordering the book.

"Based on all the available reviews, the book does not meet our selection criteria as outlined in our selection policy," Ostrander said Thursday.

In addition to the negative reviews, the committee has on its ordering list numerous books ahead of Madonna's.

The library had apparently not even considered ordering the book of sexually explicit and suggestive pictures until it was asked by reporters if it planned to make a purchase.

Public libraries around the country are struggling over whether to order a copy. Some, primarily those in larger urban areas, have opted to do so and only allow its viewing at the library.

Other systems have chosen not to buy.

The King County Public Library is purchasing three copies but will not let patrons check the book out. The Pierce County Public Library also has decided to order the book. The Seattle and Tacoma libraries have not made a decision.

In the Tri-Cities, the Mid-Columbia Library system is buying a copy but hadn't decided whether it will be placed in general circulation.

Few public libraries in Oregon are likely to order the book.

Multnomah County Library director Ginnie Cooper said Thursday that her library bought four copies of the book but canceled an order for six more.

"Sex" was so poorly put together that one of the four copies already was falling apart and had been sent to be mended, she said.

Besides, she added, "Scarlet," the recent sequel to "Gone With the Wind," was in far greater demand among patrons.

"I think old-time romance is more popular than new 'Sex,'" Cooper said.

The book is available at Yakima-area bookstores, but there's no peeking without paying first. Publishers packaged the book to prevent its viewing unless purchased.