

ATTACHMENT I

PATRON'S REQUEST FOR EVALUATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

We appreciate your interest in the materials which have been selected for inclusion in the collection of the Newport Beach Public Library. If you have a concern about a specific item, we would appreciate your assistance in addressing the matter. The staff will evaluate the material and forward a recommendation to the Library Services Director ("Director"). This completed form and corresponding response from the Director will be included in the Board of Library Trustees agenda packet.

Print Name Vicky Shemer, RDN Date 6/18/2025

Resources on which you were commenting:

- ☒ Books
 ☐ Audiovisual Resource
☐ Magazine
 ☐ Content of Library Program
☐ Newspaper
 ☐ Other _____

- Title Follow Me around russia | Russia
- Author/Producer Wiley Blevins | Kevin Blake
- What brought this title to your attention?

Russia is a terrorist state, ruled by a bloody dictator Putin and 80% of population supports him!

- Have you seen or heard reviews of this material?

irrelevant

- Please comment on the resource as a whole.

Promotes terrorist country that starts wars and kills innocent civilians for over 10 years in Ukraine and Syria. They threatened the US on 6/17/2025.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY		
RECEIVED: JUN 18 2025	RESPONDED: SEP 03 2025	BLT MEETING: SEP 15 2025

6. Please note your **specific** concerns.

Russia is a terrorist state.
It has been banned by G7, why
are you still ~~promoting~~ it?

7. What resource(s) would you suggest, to provide additional information on this topic?

Replace it with "The Gates of Europe"
by Serhii Plokhy.

8. What action are you requesting the Library to consider (remove, relocate, add, other)?

Remove it please!
Thank you. ♥

Please fill out this form in its entirety and return to **Central Library Administration Office, Attention: Administrative Assistant** (1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach) or by email to libraryadmin@newportbeachca.gov. You may also drop it off at one of the branches so it can be forwarded to the Central Library. Please use the back of this form if additional space is needed.

Thank you for taking the additional time to complete this form. Your request for evaluation will be given careful consideration and a response provided.

Newport Beach Public Library
Newport Beach, California

Corrected - October 10, 2006
Revised – November 16, 2010
Revised – August 20, 2018
Revised – August 17, 2020
Reviewed – August 15, 2022
Revised – September 18, 2023
Revised – October 16, 2023
Revised – January 16, 2024





CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, California 92660
949-717-3801 | 949-717-3805 FAX
newportbeachca.gov

September 3, 2025

Ms. Vicky Shemer, RDN
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Shemer,

Thank you for taking the time to express your concern for the books "Russia (Follow me around)" written by Wiley Blevins and "Russia (Countries we come from)" written by Kevin Blake. We received your completed Patron's Request for Evaluation of Library Resources form and have evaluated these materials based on the Newport Beach Public Library Policy NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy* (Policy).

It is the intent of the Policy that we seek "to provide breadth and depth within the collection" that reflect diverse points of view to meet the various interests, needs, and backgrounds of the community. "Inclusion of an item in the Library's collection does not mean the Library staff, Board of Library Trustees, or the City of Newport Beach endorses the contents, views, or objectives expressed in that item." Patrons are free to either select or reject materials for themselves and not restrict the freedom of others to read or inquire.

Collection development is based on specific criteria for selection including community interest and demand, suitability of format and the suitability of subject and style to its intended audience. Additional guidelines are considered when evaluating children's materials, which include age-appropriate subject matter and illustrations, and consideration of the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the children served. This process ensures a balanced and thoughtful approach.

Author Wiley Blevins completed his graduate work at Harvard Graduate School of Education, has written more than 75 children's books, and authored books for educators, and phonics and reading programs. His children's books include 13 books in the Follow me around series. The Library has 12 of these books in its collection. The "Russia" series entry, designed for early readers, provides a basic introduction to Russia's geography, culture, and history in a non-political context. Despite being part of a well-intentioned series published by Scholastic and authored by experienced educator Wiley Blevins, this title has recorded minimal checkouts compared to other children's nonfiction titles on this topic, suggesting low community demand and/or availability of other information on the subject within the collection.

"Russia" written by Kevin Blake is a title within the Countries we come from series published by Bearport Publishing. In addition to "Russia", the Library includes 36 other Countries we come from titles in its collection. The Newport Beach Public Library uses established tools, such as reviews from trusted sources, to evaluate whether a book is appropriate for its intended audience. This series received a favorable review from School Library Journal. The review indicates that "coverage

is upbeat and emphasizes the country's land, people, and animals rather than governments and institutions." Since its addition to the collection, Blake's "Russia" has recorded high circulation, indicating steady community interest and relevance. Compared to other nonfiction geography titles for this age group, its circulation is strong, especially within a well-used series that supports cultural awareness and global learning. The book's simple text and vibrant photos align with the developmental needs of early elementary readers.

After careful consideration of the book, Policy, and professional evaluation, "Russia" by Wiley Blevins will be withdrawn from the collection given its limited use and availability of other information on the subject. "Russia" by Kevin Blake will remain in the children's nonfiction collection due to its continued community use, educational value, and alignment with collection goals. Per the Policy, "[i]f a patron disagrees with [this decision], the patron may appeal to the Board for final resolution" in accordance with the application for appeal and procedures attachment within the policy."

Again, we do appreciate your use of the Newport Beach Public Library and that you took the time to contact us with your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Hartson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Hartson
Library Services Director

Attachment: Library Policy NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy*