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# Library Shelving Buying Guide



Bookshelves are an essential part of any library. Whether your library serves a single classroom or an entire school, there are library shelves to accommodate all types of books and resource materials. With so many styles and variations available, this guide is here to help you determine what kind of library shelving is best for your learning environment.

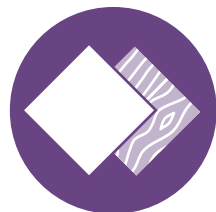
## School Outfitters Tips



Choose shelves that match your students. Tall bookshelves are good for older students, while younger students need low bookshelves they can safely grab books from.



Decide how students should interact with books. Display shelves hold less books, but make it easy to choose one. Bookcases can hold many books, but typically only the spine is visible.



Different materials offer different benefits. Metal shelves are lightweight and strong. Wooden bookshelves are heavy and durable. Laminate shelving is scratch resistant and affordable.



Adjustable shelves can fit any reading materials you have. Picture books, magazines and encyclopedias typically need more space between shelves than standard novel-sized books.

## Library Shelving Types



### Metal Bookshelves

A metal bookshelf is the strongest option for storing library books. The sturdy shelves can support hundreds of pounds of evenly distributed weight, making it easy to keep encyclopedias, art books and other reference texts accessible to students and staff. Different sizes and adjustable shelving allow metal bookshelves to organize books, makerspace equipment and other educational supplies. Available in a wide range of colors, these ultra-durable bookshelves can complement any décor.

[Shop Metal Bookshelves](#)



### Wood Bookshelves

Classic wooden bookshelves offer a reliable space to keep a wide variety of library materials. The heavy weight of the wood materials combined with thick bases make for extremely sturdy bookcases. These library shelves can hold many books at one time and can be customized to feature steel bars for even more support. The traditional style of a wooden bookshelf can suit most spaces and modular options only add to their adaptability.

[Shop Wooden Bookshelves](#)



### Laminate Bookshelves

Library shelves made with particleboard and laminate are designed to withstand years of use in busy areas such as classrooms and media centers. The protective laminate resists scratches, chipping, cracking and peeling while using attractive veneers to provide spaces with a modern look. The versatility of the material allows for unique bookcases such as **four-sided** and **curved** shelving units. These library shelves are an affordable alternative to solid wood bookshelves perfect for any learning environment.

[Shop Laminate Bookshelves](#)



### Single-Sided Shelves

For long runs of library wall bookshelves, single-sided shelves are the best option. Easily connect **modular shelving units** or simply create more open space with a **narrow bookshelf**. These classroom bookshelves are available in wood, metal and laminate options. Customizing your learning space with single-sided shelves is a cinch with our wide selection of products.

[Shop Single-Sided Shelves](#)



### Double-Sided Shelves

Double-sided library shelves can provide more room for more books without disrupting the flow of your space. Easily highlight popular books or centralize specific topics in a convenient way that allows multiple people to browse their options at the same time. A double-sided low bookshelf is ideal for pairing with **lounge seating** in study areas or waiting rooms. These versatile bookcases can act as statement pieces in classrooms, libraries and other public spaces.

[Shop Double-Sided Shelves](#)



### Mobile Bookshelves

When it comes to flexible learning environments, mobile library shelving units are the ultimate choice. Featuring locking casters securely attached to each corner, rolling bookshelves can be effortlessly rearranged at a moment's notice. Whether you need metal, wooden or laminate library shelves, heavy duty casters can provide a convenient way to store reading materials.

[Shop Mobile Bookshelves](#)



### Book Carts

Rolling book carts can make it easy to shelve and display books. Plastic, metal and **wooden book carts** all offer plenty of space not only for reading materials but other learning supplies as well. Most styles feature slanted shelves, so books won't fall while being transported. With stylish options available, book carts are a convenient way to showcase specific books or re-shelve them efficiently. With smooth rolling wheels, a library book cart can provide librarians and educators with a simple solution to managing books and classroom equipment.

[Shop Book Carts](#)



### Book Displays

Bookshelves that display book covers are very useful for early learning environments and help students choose a new book to read. Some styles feature a dry erase board on the back for extra utility while other models can double as a **bookshelf room divider**. Ideal for picture books and magazines, book displays make a great addition to libraries of any size.

[Shop Book Displays](#)

## Certifications



### GREENGUARD Certified

Products that are GREENGUARD Certified meet the stringent standards for low chemical emissions set by the Greenguard Environmental Institute (GEI), an industry independent organization that aims to improve indoor air quality. Products that are GREENGUARD Certified reduce people's exposure to chemicals and other pollutants, improving overall health. GREENGUARD Certification is GEI's first certification offering.



### GREENGUARD Gold Certified

GREENGUARD Gold Certification is GEI's second tier of certification. Products that are GREENGUARD Gold Certified meet an even lower level of chemical emissions plus health-based criteria for additional chemicals. GREENGUARD Gold products meet in the indoor air quality needs of sensitive environments like schools, daycares and health care facilities.



### BIFMA Certified

The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association, or BIFMA, certification is a voluntary standard that a product has met stringent third-party sustainability requirements. This certification ensures the product is durable, has longevity and promotes a healthy work environment.



### CPSIA Compliant

Products that are compliant to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, or CPSIA, meet the rigorous requirements set by Congress on several hazardous substances commonly found in consumer products, especially products for children ages 0-12. CPSIA regulations enforce restrictions on levels of lead and phthalates, as well as third-party testing by accredited laboratories.