
The Freedom to Read Statement asserts, "The freedom to read is essential to our democracy." In a democratic society, individuals must be sufficiently knowledgeable to make informed decisions. The library provides an impartial environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with the universe of ideas and information spanning the spectrum of knowledge and opinions. The library board affirms the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to View, and Freedom to Read policy statements in support of acquiring and managing collections.

Purpose and Goals:

1. To guide the Library Director and librarians in the selection of materials and the Library Board of Trustees in evaluating the collection, and to inform the public of selection policies.
2. "Selection" refers to deciding to add or withdraw materials of any kind from the Library collection.
3. The goals are to maintain a well-balanced and broad collection of materials for information, reference, and research and to provide materials for the educational, cultural, recreational, technological and informational needs of the community.
4. Collection decisions are made in conjunction with the strategic initiatives, especially the following:
 - Positioning the library as the preferred partner for lifelong learning
 - Embracing diversity
 - Developing library services that incorporate both physical and virtual collections
 - Committing to excellence in service to improve effectiveness and remove barriers.

Responsibility:

The responsibility for materials selection rests with the Library Director who operates objectively within the framework of policies determined by the Library Board of Trustees.

Principles:

1. Basic to the policy is the Library Bill of Rights, as adopted by the American Library Association.
2. The Library is responsible for providing circulation, reference and research materials for the general public and students. In some cases, a patron may be best served by referral to other sources or through interlibrary loan. Special collections may be maintained when indicated by the community needs.
3. Responsibility for children's borrowing choices rests with their parents or legal guardians.

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4. All public libraries contain materials that some patrons may find objectionable. Libraries may omit from the collection materials that some patrons feel are important. In either case, the library has procedures that patrons may use in requesting the reconsideration of materials. Complaints about material will follow the written procedures adopted by the Beaver Island District Library Board.
 5. Public libraries are diverse and represent a broad demographic. In selecting materials and developing collections library staff include materials that represent the broad range of human experience, reflecting the ethnic, religious, racial, and socio-economic diversity not only of the region it serves but also the larger global perspective. Library collections will provide a broad range of opinions on current issues. A balanced collection attempts to represent all sides of controversial issues as far as availability of materials, space, and budget allow.
 6. Specific principles for selection include:
 - Contemporary significance or permanent value.
 - Currency. Present and potential relevance and use of information to community needs.
 - Accuracy: Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment. Technical quality. Clarity.
 - Objectivity. Representation of diverse points of view
 - Representation of important movements, genres, or trends
 - Authority of author Skill, competence, purpose, reputation, and significance of the author. Attention by critics and reviewers.
 - Relation of work to existing collection to other materials on the subject. Scarcity of information in subject area.
 - Price, format, and ease of use.
 - Popular demand. Sustained interest.
 - Representative sampling of experimental, Artistic presentation or short-lived materials.
 - Suitability of subject and style for intended audience

Content Criteria

- Consideration of the work as a whole
- Vitality and originality
- Effective characterization

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7. Withdrawal of material
 - Weeding is selection in reverse and enhances the reputation and reliability of the collection. Discarding or weeding of materials is the best and most economical utilization of space.
 - Materials may be withdrawn on the basis of at least one of the following:
 - A. Condition- worn, damaged, or soiled items
 - B. Currency- materials containing obsolete or inaccurate information or superseded by more accurate or better information
 - C. Demand- items no longer used (usually 3-5 years without being checked out)
 - D. Ability of Library to borrow item through ILL
 - E. Unneeded duplicates
 - F. Relevance to the community
 - G. More books on any single subject than are needed.
 - H. Self-published or small press materials that are not circulating.
 - I. Trivial