

## **GENERAL POLICIES INTRODUCTION**

The Bennington Free Library provides educational, cultural and recreational materials to members of the community. The facilities of the building and the services of the staff are designed to promote the use of the library's resources by children, youth and adults.

The Library will not be used for the following purposes: political advertising, by party or candidate, cash donation boxes of any sort, sale of commercial products, except for purposes of charity specifically authorized by the Librarian, or signing of petitions, except as specifically authorized by the Librarian.

The library does not attempt to collect books which are of interest primarily to the scholar or specialist. Works of this nature, if not available at Bennington College or Williams College, can be borrowed through InterLibrary loan.

The library does not purchase textbooks, or materials intended primarily for teaching use. If these materials are not available within the school system, they may be obtained through InterLibrary loan.

The library does not collect genealogical materials, except as they relate to history in general (such as the early census records for Vermont) since the Bennington Museum has an excellent genealogical library, and provides assistance for users.

Materials for the blind and handicapped are available through the Vermont Department of Libraries, Special Services Division. Individuals can deal directly with Special Services. The library has developed a small collection of large print books, but relies upon DOL for supplementary material.

While it is recognized that non-print materials are a desirable part of any library's holdings, because of our physical size and budget, the library's emphasis is on books and periodicals. The library does have a modest audio and video collection, but does not make them available through Inter Library loan.

Budgetary considerations must always influence the Librarian's selection of material. Since it is supported by tax dollars, the library has a duty to be responsive to public demand; at the same time, the library's collection should be both as broad and as balanced as possible. Using professional training, tools and standards, the Librarian has the ultimate responsibility for choosing material which satisfies current demand and/or enhances the library's collection as a whole.