

SELECTION POLICY

The Director exercises professional judgment and expertise in the selection of library materials, based on an understanding of community needs and in accordance with general library policy. The more specialized needs and interests of smaller groups within the community are also recognized. The library endorses the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement.

The authority for the choice, cataloging and placement of materials rests with the Director. The Director may delegate some of that authority to the Adult Services Librarian and Circulation Supervisor, under the general direction of the Director.

At the Director's discretion, the Children's Librarian has the responsibility for the selection of materials intended for children and young adults. Such literature is a recognized area of specialization, and the Children's Librarian has training and experience in dealing with the special problems which pertain to selecting this literature.

Selection of materials is informed by authoritative professional reviews, standard lists of basic works, professional journals and essays by subject specialists. Materials are chosen for the collection based on the following factors: Accuracy of information, current or permanent value, relation to the existing collection, balance and diversity of viewpoint, patron demand, high standards of quality in content, format and binding, and price.

No individual element is used to judge a potential acquisition. Careful consideration is given to materials which may not have a lasting value to the collection and are available through inter-library loan.

Recommendations from the public are welcome and will be given careful consideration with regard to the overall collection policies and the existing collection.

Amended and approved 3/16/2012

Selection of Pamphlets

The purpose of the general pamphlet file is to provide concise, current material which augments the book collection. Because of its format it is not practical to process it fully. It is expected that material in this collection be expendable, largely because of format. Pamphlets do not circulate.

The Vermont and Bennington pamphlet files are also a function of physical format, but are less current in nature and are not considered as expendable. This material serves an historical purpose and does not circulate.

Amended and approved 3/16/2012

Selection of Periodicals

The same standards which apply to all library materials apply to periodicals.

The library offers access to periodicals in print and via online electronic databases. In consideration of limited availability of funds for print subscriptions, priority will be given to general interest periodicals of a non-professional nature, in all subject areas. Print subscriptions will be reviewed on a yearly basis and evaluated for patron demand.

At the Librarian's discretion, the Children's Librarian selects children's periodicals.

The library receives several periodicals which are donated by special interest groups. As long as these are of general interest and conform to the standards set for purchased library material, it is the policy of the library to accept these donations.

Amended 1996

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SELECTION IN CONTROVERSIAL AREAS

The library reserves the right to apply the same standards of accuracy, timeliness, overall value and demand to controversial material as it does to all library material. Material will not be acquired simply because it is controversial.

Sex: The Director or Children's Librarian, through reviewing media and other professional aids attempts to select material which is informative, balanced in emotional approach, and non-sensational in nature. The aim of the library is to provide information for all readers which is appropriate to their age level. Material which is selected for the adult collection is not necessarily considered appropriate for users of all ages, but parents must assume the burden of responsibility for what their children read. It is not appropriate for the library to restrict a user's borrowing privileges, except for infraction of library rules.

Religion: Books providing information about all major religions should be available; the material should be as objective as possible, and emphasize historical and ideological tenets. Material which is purely evangelical and serves as an advertisement for a specific sect should be avoided, unless it can be shown to have a historical value. Books on religious history, the changing role of religion in society, and the theory of evolution are considered to be a necessary part of the library's collection.

Political and Social Controversy: Information explaining as many sides of any social or political issue as is practical should be available. Works which present a balanced view of any issue should be purchased in preference to those which espouse a particular belief. Information on movements which could be considered subversive or illegal should be available, but the material should be objective, and the intent should be to inform rather than to incite.

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