

LEBANON-LACLEDE COUNTY LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

In view of the objective of the library, the library selects books and other materials that will meet the educational, informational, inspirational, and recreational needs of the individuals and groups of the community it serves.

The library and its Board of Trustees feels that it is the right of each American citizen to have access to materials he needs if he is to fulfill his obligations in a democratic society. Because of this, we feel that no one has the right to censorship as far as the reading of any individual is concerned. Therefore, the Board of Trustees endorses the American Library Association's Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement.

In no case should any material be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer.

Materials of sound factual authority should not be prescribed or removed from the library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Because religious faith is a very personal thing, it is impossible to avoid controversial questions in the selection of materials in this field. It is the intent of the library to provide an impartial collection in this area, and not to select material that tends to be purely denominational literature.

Books in such fields as medicine, psychology, and law that suggest procedures deemed harmful by recognized authorities will not be selected.

The aim of the adult collection is to make available books and other materials that will meet educational, informational, cultural, and recreational interests and needs of the people of the region. To fulfill this purpose the library endeavors to maintain a carefully selected collection of good, representative books of permanent value and or current interest.

The children's collection is selected to provide pleasurable reading for readings sake, and insofar as possible, to provide information in all fields of knowledge which are of interest to children. It is carefully selected for children of all ages and abilities, and emphasis is put upon books which stimulate imagination, mental growth, and the development of taste for good literature.

Young people's books are selected with the aim of helping teenagers find self-realization, live useful, well-adjusted lives in the community, and know and understand the world at large. They are selected to widen the adolescent's thinking, to enrich his life, and to help him fulfill his recreational and emotional needs.

Because it is the function of the library to select books, rather than to censor books for any reason, it is the policy of the library to select the best possible books available, in light of the monetary limitations of the budget of the library with the help and guidance of standard book selection aids.

Material selection is based on awareness of community interests and concerns, national and international issues and events, publishing trends, societal trends, and the professional judgment of selectors regarding the material's value to the library's collection. Selectors can consider many criteria when reaching a decision to purchase materials. Following are examples of criteria considered and items reviewed in the material selection process:

1. Reviews from professional journals, magazines, newspapers, or other sources.
2. Expressed or anticipated patron demand.
3. Timeliness or permanence of materials
4. Scope and depth of our present collection and the availability of materials at other libraries in the consortium.
5. Space constraints and the ability to house materials.
6. Price of materials and budget guidelines and constraints.

6/6/2023