

INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

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This policy must be reviewed by the Board biannually.

MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

501 - Philosophy

The Indian Prairie Public Library District strives to provide all people with access to diversified collections of literary, educational, informational, and recreational materials. Indian Prairie endeavors to build a popular collection representing varying points of view. In accordance with Serving Our Public: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries, Indian Prairie will allocate not less than 12% of its operating budget on materials annually.

505 - Access to the Collection

The library director, trustees and staff do not restrict access to library materials. The choice of library materials by users is an individual matter. Responsibility for library materials used by children rests with their parents or guardians. Parents who wish to supervise their children's selections are encouraged to come to the library with their children and/or to preview materials before allowing their children access. (See Appendix E) While a person may reject materials for himself or herself or for his or her children, he/she cannot exercise censorship to restrict access by others. The Indian Prairie Board of Trustees supports intellectual freedom and endorses the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association (See Appendix A), the Freedom to Read statement of the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers (See Appendix B), and the Freedom to View statement of the Educational Films Library Association (See Appendix C) and Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks adopted by the ALA Council (See Appendix D).

515 - Responsibility and Criteria for Selection

Staff conduct selection according to the materials selection policy. Because it is impossible for staff to examine all items being considered for purchase, they depend on reviews found in standard sources and other selection aids. Suggestions for materials to be purchased are welcome from patrons, trustees and staff. An attempt will be made to borrow, through interlibrary loan, any item requested which is out of print or that the library determines does not meet the criteria for selection.

Within the framework of financial resources and available space, staff use any of the following criteria to select materials:

Informational materials that are accurate and up-to-date

Popular demand; the number of copies purchased varies with the expected demand.

Curriculum support.

Diversity of subjects, ideas and opinions.

Relevance to community interests and needs

Literary quality

Reputation and or significance of author or illustrator.

Attention given by critics, reviewers and/or professional selection aids.

Current or historical significance

Availability of materials and informational resources in the community or the library system.

Price

Quality of format including technical quality of non-book materials.

In Youth Services staff will not purchase CDs marked with a “parental advisory”. In Youth Services staff purchase DVDs rated G, PG and PG13 and games rated E, 10+, and Teen. Games rated mature are purchased and shelved in the Adult Services Department. In Adult Services, DVDs rated X or "NC-17" will not be added to the collection. The library does purchase DVDs that are not rated.

525 – Gifts (see also 1100)

525.1 – Materials

In accepting donations of any materials intended for the library, the right of the final disposition of such gifts is reserved for the Library Director and staff. The same criteria for inclusion in the collection that are used for purchase decisions shall be applied to gifts. Gifts that cannot be added to the collection shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Library. They may be given to the Friends of the Library for its book sale.

The library will not accept donations of the following:

- encyclopedias more than 5 years old
- magazines over one year old
- National Geographic
- Reader's Digest Condensed Books
- text books more than 2 years old
- books that are musty, mildewed, or soiled
- books with ripped covers or pages or broken spines.
- record albums

525.2 - Cash

Cash gifts donated as memorials or for other purposes are accepted for the purchase of library materials. The general nature or subject area of the materials to be purchased may be based upon the wishes of the donor. Selection of specific titles, however, will be made by the library staff in accordance with the needs and selection policy of the library. (See also 1100.2 Commemorative Book Program, 1100.3 Donations of Materials and 1100.7 Recognition of Gifts).

535 – Evaluation and Weeding of the Collection

Library staff continually evaluate and weed library collections using professional best practices and their professional judgment to make final determinations.

Materials may be withdrawn if in poor physical condition, if the information contained is no longer current or accurate, if there are more duplicate copies than needed, or if the material, except for that with specific value, does not circulate for a period of time as specified in the Indian Prairie Collection Development Plan.

Withdrawn materials may be given to another library, offered to the Friends of the Library for sale, or disposed of. Withdrawn materials will not be saved for specific persons.

545 - Reconsideration of Library Materials

Residents of the District are free to voice their concern about specific library materials. Patrons who wish to have materials reconsidered will be referred to the librarian responsible for that area of the collection to discuss the matter.

After discussion with the staff, patrons who wish to further pursue questions about reconsideration of materials shall then prepare a formal written complaint by completing the "Library Materials Reconsideration Form," (See Appendix E) The Board of Trustees shall be notified of the receipt of all completed Reconsideration forms. Upon receipt of a completed form, the Library Director and the professional staff will review the material, and make a decision regarding the action to be taken. The Library Director shall then promptly, by written notification, inform the individual who has raised the question and the Board, of the decision which has been made. Information about all formal complaints made to the Library Director and their disposition shall be a part of the monthly report of the Director to the Board.

In the event that the decision made by the Library Director and the professional staff is not satisfactory to the patron, the patron has the right to present his complaint to the Board of Trustees. This shall be accomplished by written request to the President of the Board asking that the matter be placed on the agenda of a regular, public Board meeting. The President of the Board shall then schedule this within a reasonable period of time, and shall provide written notice to the requestor of the date and time of the meeting at which the Board will consider the matter.

The Board shall review the material in question and base the final decision concerning action to be taken on the criteria for selection and maintenance of the collection as defined in its official Materials Selection Policy. The person who has raised the question shall receive written notification of the action taken by the Board.

Appendices:

- A. Library Bill of Rights
- B. Freedom to Read Statement
- C. Freedom to View Statement
- D. Access to Electronic Information Services and Networks
- E. Library Materials Reconsideration Form

Approved 5/11/88, Rev. 5/16/90, 5/15/96, 1/21/09, 4/20/11, reviewed 4/17/13, reviewed 3/18/15, revision 1/20/16, complete review & revisions approved 3/15/17

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their service.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of views on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit space and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted by the American Library Association Council on January 23, 1980.

Adopted 5/11/88

THE FREEDOM TO READ

1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
2. Publishers, librarians and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation contained in the books they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what books should be published or circulated.
3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers to determine the acceptability of a book on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.
4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.
5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept with any book the prejudgment of a label characterizing the book or author as subversive or dangerous.
6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.
7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, bookmen can demonstrate that the answer to a bad book is a good one, the answer to a bad idea is a good one.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 15, 1953; revised January 28, 1972 by the American Library Association Council.

Adopted 5/11/88

FREEDOM TO VIEW

The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video and other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or film maker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

Endorsed by the ALA Council January 10, 1990.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Adopted 5/11/88

Appendix D

ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND NETWORKS:

An Interpretation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The world is in the midst of an electronic communications revolution. Based on its constitutional, ethical, and historical heritage, American librarianship is uniquely positioned to address the broad range of information issues being raised in this revolution. In particular, librarians address intellectual freedom from a strong ethical base and an abiding commitment to the preservation of the individual's rights.

Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. These rights extend to minors as well as adults. Libraries and librarians exist to facilitate the exercise of these rights by selecting, producing, providing access to, identifying, retrieving, organizing, providing instruction in the use of, and preserving recorded expression regardless of the format or technology.

The American Library Association expresses these basic principles of librarianship in its CODE OF ETHICS and in the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and its Interpretations. These serve to guide librarians and library governing bodies in addressing issues of intellectual freedom that arise when the library provides access to electronic information, services, and networks.

Issues arising from the still-developing technology of computer-mediated information generation, distribution, and retrieval need to be approached and regularly reviewed from a context of constitutional principles and ALA policies so that fundamental and traditional tenets of librarianship are not swept away.

Electronic information flows across boundaries and barriers despite attempts by individuals, governments, and private entities to channel or control it. Even so, many people, for reasons of technology, infrastructure, or socio-economic status do not have access to electronic information.

In making decisions about how to offer access to electronic information, each library should consider its mission, goals, objectives, cooperative agreements, and the needs of the entire community it serves.

THE RIGHTS OF USERS

All library system and network policies, procedures or regulations relating to electronic resources and services should be scrutinized for potential violation of user rights.

User policies should be developed according to the policies and guidelines established by the American Library Association, including GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES AFFECTING ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS, SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

Users should not be restricted or denied access for expressing or receiving constitutionally protected speech. Users' access should not be changed without due process, including, but not limited to, formal notice and a means of appeal.

Although electronic systems may include distinct property rights and security concerns, such elements may not be employed as a subterfuge to deny users' access to information. Users have the right to be free of unreasonable limitations or conditions set by libraries, librarians, system administrators, vendors, network service providers, or others. Contracts, agreements, and licenses entered into by libraries on behalf of their users should not violate this right. Users also have a right to information, training and assistance necessary to operate the hardware and software provided by the library.

Users have both the right of confidentiality and the right of privacy. The library should uphold these rights by policy, procedure, and practice. Users should be advised, however, that because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic transactions and files could become public.

The rights of users who are minors shall in no way be abridged. (See: Free Access to Libraries for Minors: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights; Access to Resources and Service in the School Library Media Program; and Access for Children and Young People to Videotapes and Other Nonprint Formats.)

EQUITY OF ACCESS

Electronic information, services, and networks provided directly or indirectly by the library should be equally, readily and equitably accessible to all library users. American Library Association policies oppose the charging of user fees for the provision of information services by all libraries and information services that receive their major support from public funds (50.3; 53.1.14; 60.1; 61.1). It should be the goal of all libraries to develop policies concerning access to electronic resources in light of ECONOMIC BARRIERS TO INFORMATION ACCESS: AN INTERPRETATION OF THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES AFFECTING ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS, SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

INFORMATION RESOURCES AND ACCESS

Providing connections to global information, services, and networks is not the same as selecting and purchasing material for a library collection. Determining the accuracy or authenticity of electronic information may present special problems. Some information accessed electronically may not meet a library's selection or collection development policy. It is, therefore, left to each user to determine what is appropriate. Parents and legal guardians who are concerned about their children's use of electronic resources should provide guidance to their own children.

Libraries and librarians should not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of the librarian's personal beliefs or fear of confrontation. Information retrieved or utilized electronically should be considered constitutionally protected unless determined otherwise by a court with appropriate jurisdiction.

Libraries acting within their mission and objectives must support access to information on all subjects that serve the needs or interests of each user, regardless of the user's age or the content of the material. Libraries have an obligation to provide access to government information available in electronic format. Libraries and librarians should not deny access to information solely on the grounds that it is perceived to lack value.

In order to prevent the loss of information, and to preserve the cultural record, libraries may need to expand their selection or collection development policies to ensure preservation, in appropriate formats, of information obtained electronically.

Electronic resources provide unprecedented opportunities to expand the scope of information available to users. Libraries and librarians should provide access to information presenting all points of view. The provision of access does not imply sponsorship or endorsement. These principles pertain to electronic resources no less than they do to the more traditional sources of information in libraries. (See: Diversity in Collection Development: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights)

Adopted by the ALA Council, January 24, 1996

Adopted by the Indian Prairie Public Library District Board of Trustees, May 15, 1996

Appendix E

LIBRARY MATERIALS RECONSIDERATION FORM

Author

Title

Book Periodical Other

Publisher

Request initiated by

Address

City

Zip

Phone #

email

Do you represent:

Yourself

An organization (name)

Other group (name)

1. Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work?

2. To what in the work do you object? (Please be specific. Cite pages or portion, if applicable)

3. What are your reasons for objecting?

4. Have you read any reviews of this work?
If yes, specify

5. What would you like the library to do about this material?

6. In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject treated?

Signature _____ Date _____

Received by _____ Date _____