

Policy 220

Intellectual Freedom and Individual Selection

Introduction

The Sugar Grove Public Library District is committed in providing a wide range of resources to meet the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of residents. This policy supports the mission of a public library in that intellectual freedom is central to a public library, and the Library is committed to providing materials that suit a wide range of values, interests, and beliefs.

The Library does not select materials based upon on particular viewpoint, and regularly incorporates diverse selection techniques to ensure that the collection is balanced; representational of a role and mission of a public library. These selection techniques may differ significantly from a school, church, or special Library collection and will incorporate the philosophy of the guiding documents provided as an attachment to this policy.

Non-fiction materials may not be selected if they represent inaccurate information, or misrepresentation of facts with respect to a widening body of knowledge reflective of the acquisition of knowledge.

Freedoms and Individual Selection

The Library promotes free, open and unrestricted access to Library materials for all patrons, and encourages patron to make their own individual selections to suit individual tastes and interests. No patron should restrict the freedom of selection of another patron, and the Library should not restrict the freedoms of patrons to self-select and make individual decisions.

The Library accepts and endorses the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View statement of the American Library Association. Selection of all materials shall be made on the basis of their interest and informative value to the whole community. Because the community is a conglomerate of individuals, each individual's needs will be considered in conjunction with the majority of the community and the nation as a whole.

Censorship must be exercised by the patron for her/himself alone.

Responsibility for the borrowing activities of children/youth rests with their parents and legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that mature material may inadvertently come into the possession of children, while due diligence will be made to properly place a materials in the departments devoted to the general age ranges of patrons.

Request for Reconsideration

With the above policy as a guiding philosophy, patrons do have the right to request reconsideration for an item in the collection. The public, as patrons of the Library, may express their viewpoint as part of the Library's mission to be good stewards to the community.

The Request for Reconsideration procedure is as follows:

1. The Patron will be asked to fill out the Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources form.
2. The Director will review the material with the Manager of the appropriate department. Professional resources and reviews may be utilized, as well as any other relevant data including circulation information.
3. The Director will respond to the patron in writing in a timely fashion, or hold a personal discussion with the patron depending upon the patron preference.
4. If the patron is not satisfied with the response, the Request for Reconsideration will be passed to the Board of Trustees for discussion at the next scheduled Board meeting. The Board may review the material with a Board Representative and Director, or may review the material as a whole Board. The patron is welcomed to all Board meetings in accordance with the public comment policy.
5. The guiding documents of this policy will be incorporated as a reference in reaching any decisions.
6. A decision will be reached concerning the material, and the Board will inform the patron in writing.
7. All requests will be maintained in a file at the Library.

As always, the Board and Library will treat any request with the graciousness and respect that is afforded to all users of the Library, regardless of divergence of opinion.]

Incorporated for Reference

The Library Bill of Rights

The ALA Code of Ethics

The Freedom to Read Statement

The Freedom to View Statement

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

7/24/19