

Materials Selection Policy

The Mission

The mission of the Fergus Falls Public Library is to connect people, information and ideas to promote lifelong learning, literacy development, and community involvement to assure the best quality of life.

Introduction

The Fergus Falls Public Library Board endorses the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement and Freedom to View Statement as the basis for its library Materials Selection Policy. These statements are interpreted to pertain to all formats, including video, audio, digital and electronic resources.

Objective for Materials Selection

The library is responsible for providing the widest range of materials to meet the recreational, informational and educational needs of its customers.

Criteria for Material Selection

In selecting materials, library staff will be guided by:

- Suitability of format, subject and style for intended audience/audiences and library use
- Relation to existing collection materials and other material on the subject
- Present and potential relevance to community needs and interests, but not to the exclusion of any subject
- Appropriateness and effectiveness of the format and the content
- Reputation and/or significance of the author(s)
- Skill, competence and purpose of the author(s)
- Attention of critics, reviews, and the public

In choosing materials to suit a variety of tastes, differing viewpoints on controversial issues will be included.

Materials for youth will be selected according to the same criteria as adult material. The library cannot restrict the reading, listening or viewing of library material. Responsibility for the reading, listening or viewing of library material by minors rests with their parents or guardians.

Collection Maintenance

The collection will be weeded systematically and regularly based on the following criteria:

- Dated material with little or no permanent value
- Rarely used material with little or no permanent value
- Misleading or factually inaccurate material
- Materials worn beyond reasonable mending or repair
- Material superseded by a new edition, better title or format
- Trivial material of little or no permanent value.

Reconsideration of Materials

Persons objecting to specific library materials or resources are encouraged to complete the Reconsideration of Library Materials form and present it to the Library Director for action. The form was created by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association.

Gift Materials

Gift materials are accepted with the understanding that their acceptance is unconditional. Materials which are needed and fit the selection criteria will be added to the collection. Those which do not may be added to book sale materials or disposed of. Library staff may not provide material donors with estimated values of their gifts, but may only enumerate the types and numbers of items given.