

Amagansett Library Materials Selection Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Amagansett Library, recognizing the pluralistic nature of the community it serves and the varied backgrounds and needs of all citizens, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, disability, or political persuasion, adopts and supports the following Materials Selection Policy.

DEFINITIONS

“Selection” refers to the decision that must be made either to add materials to the collection or to retain materials already in the collection.

“Materials” may include books, pamphlets, maps, magazines, newspapers, manuscripts, compact discs, audiotapes, slides, videotapes, art reproductions, and other electronic and audio-visual resources.

RESPONSIBILITY

The authority and responsibility for the selection of library materials are delegated to the Library Director and, under his or her directions, to the professional staff members who are qualified for this activity. The general public and staff members may recommend materials for consideration.

WEEDING

The professional staff keeps the collection vital, useful and within the space available by retaining or replacing essential materials and by removing, on a systematic and continuous basis, those works that are worn, outdated, of little historical significance or no longer in demand.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Library Board defends the principles of the freedom to read, listen and/or view. No material or display whose appropriateness has been challenged shall be removed from the library’s collection without completion of the procedures outlined in the “Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy”.

The responsibility for the reading/viewing/listening by children rests with their parent or legal guardian. The library does not stand in loco parentis. Therefore, selection shall not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of children.

GIFTS

The Library is pleased to receive gifts of materials from individuals or groups. The same standards that apply to the selection of library materials shall be used to evaluate gifts. It is understood that gifts are given freely without conditions attached and that donations will be used or redirected to best serve the Library and the community.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each type of material must be considered in terms of its own excellence and the audience for whom it is intended. No single standard can be applied in all cases. Some materials may be selected primarily in terms of artistic merit, scholarship or value to humanity. Others are selected to satisfy the informational, recreational or educational interests of the community the library serves. Staff members involved in the selection of resources will be guided by, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Educational, historic, local or social significance
- Favorable reviews found in standard selection sources
- Recommendations based upon preview and examination by the professional staff
- Reputation and significance of the author, producer or publisher
- Validity, currency, and appropriateness of material
- The contribution the material makes to balance the collection
- The high degree of user appeal
- Quality and variety of format
- Timeliness or permanence
- Integrity
- Educational goals of the school district

The selection of materials on controversial issues will be directed toward maintaining a diverse collection representative of various views.

Adopted: May 31, 2019

Revised: June 24, 2022