

LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION

This policy is for the selection of all library materials for the use of the public.

The Board of Trustees of the Walla Walla Public Library recognizes that within the Walla Walla area there are groups and individuals with widely separate and diverse interests, backgrounds, cultural heritages, social values, and needs. The Board further recognizes that the library was created to serve all of the people in the area regardless of age, sex, race, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, political or social views. Therefore the selection policy for library materials shall be as follows:

1. Library materials include any book, magazine, pamphlet, map, newspaper, paperback, document, music, or type of item in print format; audio cassette, video cassette, or type of item in electronic tape format; compact disk, DVD, compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM), computer program or type of item in digital format; microfilm or microform; or any information sources on the Internet or other type of electronic information.
2. Library materials selection is and shall be vested in the Director of the Walla Walla Public Library and delegated to members of the staff who are qualified by reason of education, experience and training. Any library material so selected shall be held to be selected by the Board.
3. Selection of library materials shall be made on the basis of: interest, information, appropriateness, and relevance to and for the people in the service area. Factors to be considered shall include timeliness, effective expression, significance of subject, responsibility of opinions, evaluations in professionally recognized critical guides, overall quality, and public interest. No materials shall be excluded because of the race, sex, national origin, religious creed, sexual orientation, or the political, religious, or social view of the author. Acceptance of gifts for inclusion in the collection, and withdrawal from the collection of materials which are no longer useful, will be based on the criteria listed above.
4. The Board of Trustees of the Walla Walla Public Library believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that, while any person is free to reject for himself or herself materials of which he or she does not approve, he or she cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others to read, view, listen, or inquire.

5. The Board of Trustees does not endorse every idea or presentation contained in the materials it makes available to the public and believes that it would be in conflict with the public's interest to establish its own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what material the library selects. The Public Library will develop and maintain a balanced materials collection which will represent various points of view on a subject. "A balanced collection reflects a diversity of materials, not an equality in numbers." (ALA Diversity in Collection Development)

6. The Board of Trustees fully expects that a collection representing various points of view may cause one or more persons to take issue with the selection of a specific item and welcomes any expressions of opinion. A person questioning materials in the library collection is requested to complete a Statement of Concern About a Library Material provided by the library. Materials subject to complaint will be handled in accordance with the Materials Selection Review procedure. A copy is attached to this policy. Materials will remain in the active collection while being reconsidered.

7. The Board of Trustees recognizes that it is the right and the responsibility of a parent to guide his or her child's reading, viewing, or listening; and not the reading, viewing, or listening by children of other parents.

8. The Board of Trustees of the Walla Walla Public Library declares that it will support and adhere to these statements below in as far as they are consistent with the selection criteria listed above:

- a. The Library Bill of Rights, American Library Association, adopted June 18, 1948; amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980, by the ALA Council;
- b. The Freedom to Read Statement, American Library Association, adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972;
- c. The following interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights:
 - (1). Access for Children and Young People to Videotapes and other nonprint formats, adopted June 28, 1989, revised July 2, 1991, by the ALA Council;
 - (2). Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Gender or Sexual Orientation, adopted June 30, 1993, by the ALA Council;
 - (3). Challenged Materials, adopted June 25, 1971; amended July 1, 1981, and January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council;

- (4). Diversity in Collection Development, adopted July 14, 1982; amended January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council;
- (5). Economic Barriers to Information Access, adopted June 30, 1993, by the ALA Council;
- (6). Evaluating Library Collections, adopted February 2, 1973; amended July 1, 1981, by the ALA Council;
- (7). Exhibit Spaces and Bulletin Boards; adopted July 2, 1991, by the ALA Council;
- (8). Expurgation of Library Materials, adopted February 2, 1973; amended July 1, 1981 and January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council;
- (9). Free Access to Libraries for Minors; adopted June 30, 1972; amended July 1, 1981 and July 3, 1991, by the ALA Council;
- (10). Library Initiated Programs as a Resources; adopted January 27, 1982; amended June 26, 1990, by ALA Council;
- (11). Meeting Rooms; adopted July 2, 1991, by ALA Council;
- (12). Restrict Access to Library Materials; adopted February 2, 1973; amended July 1, 1981 and July 3, 1991, by ALA Council;
- (13). Statement on Labeling; adopted July 13, 1951; amended June 25, 1971; July 1, 1981, and June 26, 1990, by ALA Council; and
- (14). University Right to Free Expression; adopted January 16, 1991, by ALA Council.

d. Washington Library Association Statement of Policy on Intellectual Freedom in Libraries, adopted May 14, 1971.

This selection policy is to be periodically reviewed and revised by the Library Director at the direction of the Library Board.

Adopted December 14, 1977
Amended May 6, 1986
Amended July 13, 1994
Amended August 2, 1995
Amended July 14, 1999
Amended July 20, 2005