



Northport-East Northport Public Library

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COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Mission Statement

The Northport-East Northport Public Library exists to inform, educate, and culturally enrich the residents of all ages of the district through the selection, organization, promotion, and dissemination of all forms of expression.

Purpose of the Policy

The Northport-East Northport Public Library Board of Trustees endorses the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, *The Freedom to Read Statement*, and *Freedom to View Statement* and its interpretations. In its adoption of the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association, the Northport-East Northport Public Library Board of Trustees and staff uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources. Materials selected under the library's collection development policy are considered protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This policy is meant to aid the librarians in supporting the mission and roles of the library in its community; to guide the librarians in the selection of materials; and to inform the community about the principles upon which selections are based.

Community Served

The Library collects and assesses materials in an effort to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of our community. Community needs are continually assessed through the review of population demographics, evaluation of the collection usage, observation of community interests and activities, and cognizance of other services and programs available in the community. The Library strives to ensure the collection reflects the interests and needs of all those in the community.

Limitations of the Collection

The Northport-East Northport Public Library does not collect in-depth in any one subject area, with the exception of special collections. The library is also constrained by a finite amount of storage space so the size of items may be a limiting factor. Interlibrary cooperative agreements enhance individual patron research pursuits by granting access to public and academic library collections throughout the United States. Format, access, as well as sustainable considerations are taken into account when making material selections.

Responsibility for the Collection

Final responsibility for material selection lies with the Director of the Northport-East Northport Public Library who delegates to the librarians on staff and their department heads the authority to

make individual selections. The library seeks to meet the needs of the community by maintaining a representative and well-rounded selection of materials on all subjects including those that may be considered controversial. Not all library materials may be suitable for all members of the community. Responsibility for a child's use of library materials, regardless of format or content, lies with the parent or guardian, not with the library. Users are free to restrict for themselves materials of which they do not approve, but they may not restrict the freedom of others to read and view what they desire. Selection of materials for adults will not be inhibited by the possibility that such materials may be accessible to children.

Basic Selection Principles

An item need not meet all criteria to be selected. A policy cannot replace the judgment of a skilled librarian. Each librarian seeks to provide a balanced collection and selects based on critical review sources, peer reviews, the understanding of user needs, knowledge of authors, publishers, and authority, accessibility and accuracy of presentation.

The following points are also considered when selecting materials.

- Appropriateness to Library's mission and service roles
- Relationship to existing collection
- Availability for purchase and availability elsewhere
- Access to content in other formats
- Suitability of format
- Relevance to current and anticipated community needs
- Local significance
- Cost and complexity
- Size and durability
- Safety requirements
- Historical significance
- Potential user appeal

Patron requests for particular materials are welcome; however, the library reserves the right to purchase or reject such requests based on selection principles outlined above.

Withdrawals

Items withdrawn due to loss or damage are not necessarily replaced. Popular or classic titles in condition too poor for circulation will be replaced whenever possible. The library strives to maintain an up-to-date, vital, inviting collection. Librarians systematically withdraw damaged materials, items which have low circulation, outdated materials, and those which no longer meet the selection criteria. When possible, the Library will dispose of withdrawn items in a sustainably responsible manner. Art may be offered for permanent loan to a museum or library for reasons of preservation, conservation, or public access. If a piece of donated art is sold, money earned from that sale must be reinvested into the Library.

Cooperative Collection Development/Resource Sharing/Relationships with other Agencies

The library recognizes the value of belonging to regional library systems including Suffolk Cooperative Library System and the Long Island Library Resources Council for cooperative collection development opportunities and interlibrary access to collections. This collaboration both expands and enhances the diversity of materials available through resource sharing.

Policy and process for collection challenges

Patrons may request reconsideration of library materials by completing a *Patron's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials* form. Forms are available at the Adult, Teen, and Children's reference desks. The collection specialists and the administration with respect to this Collection Development Policy will review any item that is challenged.

The Future

Formats continue to change. Core selection principles will apply to all new formats. The library seeks to maintain a balanced collection of materials that will be accessible, useful, and sustainable for the community.