

# BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

- A. The purpose of the Bartholomew County Public Library materials selection policy is to guide librarians and inform the public about the principles upon which selections are made. A policy cannot replace the judgment of librarians, but stating goals and indicating boundaries will assist them in choosing from a vast array of available materials.
- B. The Board of Trustees of the Bartholomew County Public Library, recognizing the pluralistic nature of this community and the varied backgrounds and needs of all citizens, declares as a matter of materials selection policy that:
1. The responsibility for selection lies with the professional staff of the library operating within the areas of service to children, teens, and adults. The general public and staff members may recommend materials for consideration. The ultimate responsibility for materials selections rests with the Director of the library who operates within the framework of policies determined by the library Board of Trustees. However, the Director may delegate to staff members authority to interpret and guide the application of the policy in making day-to-day selections.
  2. As a responsibility of library service, books and other materials selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all people in the community. There should be the fullest practicable provision of materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our time—international, national, and local. The library considers the following criteria to be of particular importance in selecting materials:
    - (a) authority of the author
    - (b) timeliness and importance for contemporary society
    - (c) accuracy, presentation of the subject, viewpoint of author
    - (d) readability, literary merit, organization of material
    - (e) community needs and demands
    - (f) representation of various interests and viewpoints
    - (g) relationship of other material in collection
    - (h) availability in other libraries or elsewhere in the community
    - (i) the library does not attempt to acquire textbooks and other curriculum related materials or professionally and technically oriented resources except as such materials also serve the general public
    - (j) the library acknowledges a particular interest in local and state history and the works of local authors; the library will, however, apply the same standards of selection to the works of the local authors as it does to other materials.
  3. The library welcomes gifts, but accepts them with the understanding that it has the right to handle or dispose of them in the best interest of the institution. Such material may be added to the collection provided that it meets the library standards of selection.

4. The library Board of Trustees believes that censorship is a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject for him/herself library materials which he/she does not approve, he/she cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others to use these materials. No book and/or library materials shall be excluded because of the race, sex, nationality or the political, religious, or social views of the author.

5. Responsibility for the use of library materials by children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that such materials may inadvertently come into the possession of children.

6. The library Board of Trustees defends the principles of the freedom to read and declares that whenever censorship is involved, no books and/or library materials shall be removed from the library save under the orders of a court of competent jurisdiction.

7. The library Board of Trustees adheres to and supports the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement adopted by the American Library Association both of which are available upon request at the Bartholomew County Public Library.

Adopted by the  
Bartholomew County Public Library Board of Trustees  
June 8, 1981

Board Policy: Materials Selection

June 1981  
Reaffirmed July 1987  
Reaffirmed April 1992  
Reaffirmed July 1998  
Reaffirmed June 2003  
Reaffirmed May 2007

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*Providing resources for life-long learning and enjoyment*