Nevada Public Library

Material Selection and Reconsideration Policy

The Nevada Public Library serves a wide variety of people with a wide range of experiences, education, and desires; therefore, the library’s objectives must be diversified enough to encompass a variety of interests, needs, and opinions. Books and materials are selected for the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community.

The responsibility for selecting library materials rests with the library director or designee, who operates within the framework of policies established by the ultimate authority: the Board of Trustees. The director delegates selection responsibilities to a professional staff with the authority to interpret and apply selection policy.

The designated librarians apply their training, knowledge, and expertise in making selection decisions, as do the catalogers who determine where an item is placed within the collection. The following factors are all taken into consideration when considering potential items:

* Anticipated demand
* Community interests
* Respected Authorship
* Effective presentation of ideas/information
* Accessible Format
* Permanent Value and Available Budgets
* Intended audience
* Relationship to materials already in the collection and variety of viewpoints
* Physical space limitations
* Date of publication
* Quality of Construction
* Acquisitions procedures and Availability of the same or similar materials in the area

Sources for selection decisions encompass, but are not limited to, published reviews from standard review sources, publisher/vendor catalogs and advertisements, professional and trade bibliographies, and patron requests and recommendations. The library strongly encourages patron input, and all patron requests and recommendations are subject to the selection criteria outlined above.

No restrictions are placed on the materials anyone may read, view, or listen to. Selection of materials to include in the collection will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the material in relation to maintaining a dynamic, relevant, and balanced collection and to serving the needs and the interests of all users. Inclusion of an item in the collection does not mean that the library endorses any theory or statement contained in those materials and resources.

While every patron may not agree with the viewpoints offered in some library material, the library has a responsibility to provide a balanced collection with access to material reflecting diverse ideas through which any side of a question, cause, or movement may be explored, provided that the material meets the outlined selection criteria. Patrons are free to choose what they like from the collection, to reject what they don't like, but not to restrict the freedom of others to choose. The library supports the right of each family to decide which items are appropriate for use by their children. Responsibility for a child’s use of library materials lies with his or her parent or guardian.

The following steps will be used when a patrons desires action to address concerns about a library resource. For the duration of this process, the material in question will remain in circulation in the library collection.

1. A concerned patron who is dissatisfied will be offered a packet of materials that includes the

library's mission statement, selection policy, Material Reconsideration Form, and the Library Bill of

Rights.

2. Patrons are required to complete and submit a Material Reconsideration Form to the library director.

3. The director, with appropriate professional staff, will review the Material Reconsideration Form and the material in question, to consider whether its selection follows the criteria stated in the

collection policy.

4. Within 15 business days, the director will make a decision and send a letter to the concerned

person who requested the reconsideration, stating the reasons for the decision.

5. If the individual is not satisfied with the decision, a written appeal may be submitted within 10

business days to the Board of Trustees.

6. If the board plans to address the appeal at their board meeting, the individual will be notified

of when and where the meeting will be held.

7. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to limit the length of public comments.

8. The decision of the board is final.