



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
MANSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY DEPARTMENTAL POLICY MEMORANDUM

Approved by: Leslie B. McDonough, Library Director
Effective Date: April 1, 2016
Subject: Collection Development Policy

General Purpose

The mission of Mansfield Library is to provide guidance and access to materials and information which enhance and enrich the lives of people of all ages.

The goals of Mansfield Library are:

1. to provide a broad range of materials in a variety of formats,
2. to promote and stimulate active use of its resources,
3. to facilitate the use of its resources and services with trained library personnel,
4. to offer programs and services to encourage lifelong learning.

I. Purpose and Scope of the Collection

The purpose of a public library in a democratic society is to encourage freedom of thought through open access to information and ideas. The library serves a diverse community and it must include materials that represent as broad a range of viewpoints as is possible. With this in mind, the library will acquire materials for the intellectual enlightenment, cultural development, and recreation of our users.

II. Selection Criteria

The librarian assigned to each collection has sole responsibility for its development, under the supervision of the library director. Materials selection will be based on standard library reviewing sources such as Booklist, Library Journal, and other professional publications. Our basic tendency is always toward inclusion rather than exclusion; items will not be rejected for racial, political, religious, or moral reasons. Patron requests will also guide our selections. Also, gifts to the library of books and other materials will be considered for inclusion in the collection based on the same criteria as purchased materials.

III. Intellectual Freedom

Since public libraries do not promote or endorse any particular set of beliefs, viewpoints, or lifestyles, the Mansfield Public Library has adopted the standards as set forth in the Library Bill of Rights as proposed by the American Library Association (see below). All library materials will be made available for individuals to freely examine in order to make their own decisions.

IV. Complaints about Inclusion/Exclusion

Occasionally an individual or group may object to materials in the collection. The complainant will be asked to fill out a form detailing his/her objection. A similar procedure will be followed for a complaint about the exclusion of materials.

V. Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- i. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- ii. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- iii. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- iv. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- v. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- vi. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.