

# **Materials Selection Policy**

**Freeport Public Library**

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Freeport Public Library shall provide free service to all persons either resident in or owning taxable property within the City of Freeport. It shall have as its basic objective the provision of professionally selected materials and information which aid the individual or the group in the pursuit of education, information, or research, and in the creative and recreational use of leisure time.

Educational service to adults and to children, both as individuals and as members of organizations, is a primary function of this library; consequently, the Library shall pursue an active program of leadership and cooperation with other agencies in encouraging the use of significant material representing all points of view and the preservation of historical resources pertaining particularly to Freeport and the surrounding area.

In meeting its objectives of providing recreational material the Library shall encourage such use of leisure time as will promote the personal development and social well-being of the library patron.

The Library subscribes to the ALA Bill of Rights.

## **THE 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.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

The responsibility for the selection of all library materials rests with the Head Librarian who is governed by the policies stated herein. Distribution of funds for materials among the departments of the Library will be determined by the Head Librarian with regard to the total library program. Specific suggestions from patrons will be given due consideration.

### SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

It is the intention of the Library to acquire print and non-print materials which, in the judgment of the Head Librarian, are in keeping with the objectives of the Library. The criteria of selection will be (1) the overall value of the item to the user, (2) community needs and interests with due regard for variations in education, ability, and interests among patrons in general, (3) public demand as indicated by published lists of best sellers and patron requests, (4) literary and artistic merit, and (5) the cost of the item. The foremost consideration in determining specific acquisition will be the balances within and between collections within the Library and other members of the Northern Illinois Library System. Specialized material may be purchased if sufficient demand for it exists; however, such may also be requested through interlibrary loan. Donations of materials are encouraged and received by the Head Librarian with the understanding that the objectives of the Library will determine whether or not they are added to the collection.

It is the Library's policy not to duplicate the learning materials ordinarily found in the school library or the classroom, such as textbooks and primers. However, the Library may contain such materials when they alone contribute significantly to a body of knowledge.

The Library attempts to collect copies of materials published by present or former residents of Freeport and Stephenson County so that these works may be preserved for their literary or historical value. Artifacts other than print or photographic materials will be referred, by agreement, to the Stephenson County Historical Society.