

Freedom to Read

The Macedon Public Library adopts the following core values from the Freedom to Read Statement:

1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
2. Publishers and librarians do not need to endorse every idea or presentation contained in the books they make available.
3. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.
4. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality of thought and expressions.

Based on the Freedom Statement adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1999 revised June 20, 2004 by the ALA Council and The AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

Link to the Freedom to Read statement:

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

Free Access to Libraries for Minors

The Macedon Public Library adopts the ideas contained within the following interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (LBOR):

- Library policies and procedures which effectively deny minors equal access to all library resources available to other users violate the LBOR. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.
- Article V of the LBOR states, “A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.” The “right to use a library” includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, educational level, or legal emancipation of users violates Article V.
- Libraries are charged with the mission of developing resources to meet the diverse information needs and interests of the communities they serve. Services, materials, and facilities, which fulfill the needs and interests of the library users at different stages in their personal development, are a necessary part of library resources. The needs and interests of

Free Access to Libraries for Minors (Continued)

each library user, and resources appropriate to meet those needs and interests, must be determined on an individual basis. Librarians cannot predict what resources will best fulfill the needs and interests of any individual user based on a single criteria such as chronological age, level of education, or legal emancipation.

- The selection and development of library resources should not be diluted because of minors having the same access to library resources as adult users. Institutional self-censorship diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users.
- Librarians and governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions on access to library resources in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections from parents or anyone else.
- The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries do not authorize librarians or governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents or legal guardians. Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents – and only parents – have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children – and only their children – to library resources. Parents or legal guardians who do not want their children to have access to

Free Access to Libraries for Minors (Continued)

certain library services, materials or facilities, should so advise their children. Librarians and governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Librarian and governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to provide equal access to all library resources for all library users.

- Librarians have a professional commitment to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free and equal access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

Restricted Access to Library Materials

The Macedon Public Library adopts the ideas contained within the following interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (LBOR):

Libraries are a traditional forum for the open exchange of information. Attempts to restrict access to library materials violates the basic tenets of the LBOR.

Historically, attempts were made to limit access by relegating materials into segregated collections. These attempts are in violation of established policy. Such collections are often referred to by a variety of names, including “closed shelf,” “locked case,” “adults only,” “restricted access,” or “high demand.” Access to some materials also may require a monetary fee or financial deposit. In any situation that restricts access to certain materials, a barrier is placed between the patron and those materials. That barrier may be age related, linguistic, economic, or psychological in nature.

Because materials placed in restricted collections often deal with controversial, unusual, or “sensitive” subjects, having to ask a librarian or circulation clerk for them may be embarrassing or inhibiting for patrons desiring the materials. Needing to ask for materials may pose a language barrier or a staff service barrier. Because restricted collections often are composed of materials which some library patrons consider “objectionable”, the potential user may be predisposed to think of the materials as “objectionable” and, therefore, are reluctant to ask for them.

Restricted Access to Library Materials (Continued)

Barriers between the materials and the patron which are psychological, or are affected by language skills, are nonetheless limitations on access to information. Even when a title is listed in the catalog with a reference to its restricted status, a barrier is placed between the patron and the publication (see also “Statement on Labeling”).

There may be, however, countervailing factors to establish policies to protect library materials – specifically, for reasons of physical preservation including protection from theft or mutilation. Any such policies must be carefully formulated and administered with extreme attention to the principles of intellectual freedom. This caution is also in keeping with ALA policies, such as “Evaluating Library Collections,” “Free Access to Libraries for Minors,” and the “Preservation Policy”.

Finally, in keeping with the “Joint Statement on Access” of the American Library Association and the Society of American Archivists, restrictions that result from donor agreements or contracts for special collection materials must be similarly circumscribed. Permanent exclusions are not acceptable. The overriding impetus must be to work for free and unfettered access to all documentary heritages.

Adopted February 2, 1973; amended July 1, 1991, by the ALA Council.

Freedom to View

The Macedon Public Library adopts the values described in this Freedom to View statement also adopted by the American Library Association (ALA):

The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the first Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed;

1. To provide the broadest possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraints of labeling or prejudging film, video and other audiovisual materials on the basis of moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View

Freedom to View (Continued)

Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

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Statement on Labeling

The Macedon Public Library adopts the ideas expressed within the American Library Association's Statement on Labeling:

Labeling is the practice of describing or designating certain library materials by affixing a prejudicial label to them or segregating them by a prejudicial system. The American Library Association opposes this as a means of predisposing people's attitudes towards library materials for the following reasons:

1. Labeling is an attempt to prejudice attitudes and as such, it is a censor's tool.
2. The American Library Association opposes the establishment of criteria for judging publications as objectionable.
3. Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate an endorsement of their contents by the library.

The American Library Association opposes efforts which aim at closing any path to knowledge. This statement does not, however, exclude the adoption of organizational schemes designed as directional aids or to facilitate access to materials.

Based on a policy adopted July 13, 1951; amended June 25, 1971; July 1, 1981 by the ALA Council.

Materials Selection

This policy functions as a general guide for the selection of materials that enable the library to meet the goals enumerated in its mission statement.

SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

Materials for the library collection are chosen to serve the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the community. The primary goal of selection is to provide the best possible collection with the financial resources available. The decision to purchase any item for the collection is usually based on demand or anticipated need. The library staff is constantly gathering information concerning the needs of library users by means of surveys, circulation statistics, interlibrary loan requests, and patron input. Follow-up studies are conducted on those items or subject areas for which demand is constant.

Selection based on demand: We believe that the library patron is an important part of the selection process. An individual request from a patron for a title is usually honored if the request conforms to the guidelines outlined in this policy statement.

Selection based on need: Some materials are chosen for the purpose of updating and developing specific subject areas. Materials added in this manner are selected from reviews, availability lists, vendors' catalogs, bibliographies, and local experts.

Materials Selection (Continued)

The library strives to present materials representing all sides of an issue in a neutral, unbiased manner. The existence of a particular viewpoint in the collection is an expression of the library's policy of intellectual freedom, not an endorsement of that particular point of view. The library provides service to all within the framework of its rules and regulations and does not knowingly discriminate in its material selection regarding race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, occupation or financial position.

The Macedon Public Library endorses the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and the FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT of the American Library Association, both of which are included and intended to be a part of this policy statement.

Responsibility for Selection

The responsibility for materials selection and the development of the library collection rests with the Library Director, who works under the authority of and the policies determined by the Board of Trustees.

Materials may be available in a variety of formats. Factors governing the choice of format include anticipated use, storage requirements, ease of access, and the format of earlier editions. When all other factors are equal, ease of access by the public should be the primary consideration.

SELECTION GUIDELINES

Adult and young adult books are selected on a variety of criteria in addition to demand or need. As a general rule the library will only acquire works of interest to the layperson. The library does not support educational curriculums through the purchase of textbooks. However, textbooks may be added to the collection if they provide the best or only source of information on a subject or to complement an existing area with another perspective.

Price, accuracy and timeliness are other factors influencing selection. The library does not commonly purchase out-of-print or dated material for the collection. No attempt is made to purchase all the works by a certain author.

Periodicals are added to the collection on the basis of need. Prime consideration is given to those that fill a particular void in the

Responsibility for Selection

(Continued)

library's collection and are relevant to community members' interests.

Newspapers are an important source of information. The library attempts to provide a range of newspapers.

Sound and video recordings are an intrinsic part of the library's collection. Many subjects can only be covered adequately by an audio or video recording. The library's collection also includes movies and music recordings.

Visual media are added to the library's collection in a manner consistent with patron demand and budget constraints. As technology changes the library will acquire visual media in the prevailing formats.

Children's books and other material expressly purchased for children are selected to meet the informational and recreational needs of persons below sixth grade. The criteria of patron demand and need are also considered in acquiring children's materials.

Historical materials dealing with Western New York, Wayne County, and the Macedon area are actively sought by the library. The library prefers to confine itself to the printed or spoken work in the collection and preservation of this material. The library does not usually attempt to include artifacts as part of the collection, although certain

Deselection/Weeding

“Weeding” of the collection is an ongoing process directly related to collection development. Materials that are worn, damaged, outdated, duplicated, or no longer used may be removed from the collection. Other factors taken into consideration are frequency of use, community interest, and availability of other material on the subject.

In general, the M-U-S-T-Y* Weeding Criteria will be applied:

- **M** = Misleading, inaccurate and/or obsolete information
- **U** = Ugly in appearance due to wear and tear, filth and changes in book cover styles. Damages unable to be repaired in an attractive manner.
- **S** = Superseded A newer, updated version is available or too many duplicates are on hand
- **T** = Trivial The writing is poor, the information is substandard, interest level has faded
- **Y** = Your collection has no use for the book. It is irrelevant to your community.

**Coined by the American Library Association*

The Bullis Collection is a special collection in the general trust of the Town of Macedon that is housed within the library. No weeding criteria shall apply to this special collection as it is legally prohibited as per the terms of the Town accepting the trust.

Requests for Reconsideration

Residents of the Town of Macedon, which the Macedon Public Library is legally chartered to serve, wishing to lodge a complaint concerning material held in the library collection must use the following procedure:

1. An individual or group wishing to question the presence of an item in the collection should contact the Library Director.
2. If the patron wishes to carry the objection further, a written objection will be taken to the Board for further consideration.
3. Items the Board deems appropriate for the collection will not be removed except by court order. (A form for Reconsideration of Library Materials is included in Appendix D).
4. No item shall be removed that infringes upon the Freedom to Read Act.

The Bullis Collection

The Bullis Collection of Rare Literature was entrusted to the Town of Macedon by Jeanette (Nettie) Bullis. The collection represents the reading interests of the Bullis family and gives a glimpse of New York State heritage for public understanding, enjoyment and study.

The Library Director works to help organize the materials in the Bullis Collection to provide easier access for patrons.

Any materials added to the Bullis Collection by the Macedon Public Library due to relevance and enrichment are not to be considered additions to the property of the Bullis Collection. These materials will remain the property of Macedon Public Library and, should the Bullis Collection ever be relocated elsewhere, the Macedon Public Library would have every right to any materials added to the collection by Macedon Public Library.