

## **5040.0 Policies Regarding Library Materials**

### **5040.1 Selection of Materials**

The Board of Library Trustees, recognizing the pluralistic nature of this community with the varied backgrounds and needs of all its patrons, hereby adopts the following principles and practices as the Library Materials Selection Policy.

- A. The Philosophy Statements contained in Section 2020.0 of this Policy & Procedure Manual are fundamental to this policy.
- B. The library is considered a resource of thought, opinion and expression of humankind, and as such, materials in its collection are inclusive rather than exclusive.
- C. Library materials are primarily chosen for values of interest, proven or potential, information and enlightenment of all people in our community. Secondary considerations include availability, cost, the amount of similar materials already in the collection and the extent to which the materials may be available elsewhere in the community or via inter-library loan.
- D. Library materials selection shall be vested in the District Director and under his or her direction such members of the staff who are qualified by reason of education or training. Any library materials so selected shall be held to be selected by the Board of Library Trustees.
- E. Discriminating use of library materials is purely an individual matter, and while everyone is free to reject for themselves materials which they do not approve, they shall not be allowed to impose their personal taste in restricting the freedom to access of library materials for others.
- F. As an institution devoted to the dissemination of the knowledge of humankind and adhering to the right of all patrons to free access of library materials, the library does not wish to be placed in the position of interfering with the right of parents or guardians to determine their children's selection of materials. Any restriction to access of library materials shall be the sole responsibility of a child's parent or guardian.
- G. The library does not place materials on "closed shelves" to protect the public from the content of the material. Other than reference materials, the only items of limited access are those which themselves need protection because of cost, frequency of use, susceptibility to loss or damage, and fragility or physical format unsuited to heavy use.
- H. Gifts of library materials or funds to enrich the library's collection are welcome. The principles and practices set forth here are applied to all materials proffered. The library reserves the right to accept or refuse any conditions placed upon gifts of materials or funds.
- I. The collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respects both the library's autonomy and its specific community needs. The District serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas. Library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole. The District supports the right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral and other ideas and experiences.