

Collection Development and Material Selection Policy

The director is primarily responsible for the selection of books and other materials for the collection, but final authority rests with the library board in any question of wisdom of selection. The director selects on the basis of information found in standard library selection aids; on the advice of experts who may be consulted in cases where the librarian feels this is warranted; and when feasible, on direct examination of the material itself. Other criteria for selection are the specific needs and interests of the community and the library's existing collection, services and the budget.

Qualities sought in selection of materials include permanent or timely value, authoritativeness, clear presentation and readability, and social significance. The deliberately distorted or sensational is avoided. Prejudicial materials are not considered appropriate for the public library. Textbooks are generally not purchased nor are collectors items as such. Special group interests are balanced with general demand.

The library is glad to receive the suggestions of its public, and specific requests of the public are met whenever possible.

Gifts or memorials are welcomed, they shall be given in monetary funds. The patron may give a suggestion as to how it will be used, the final decision will be deemed by the director as to how it will best serve the public.

The library supports the American Library Associations' Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and Freedom to View statements.

In coverage of current issues, as well as historical patterns of ideology and thought, the library attempts to present high quality works on all sides of any controversy. The library does not impose, nor will it submit to, any kind of censorship of thought through the exclusion of a particular fact of a controversial issue. The library believes strongly that books are vehicles of thought, and that such censorship represents a violation of the freedom of thought which is an implied part of the freedom of speech. While the library does select its materials in an attempt to maintain a quality collection, it does not censor any book, audio, periodical, or video, for reasons of religious or political belief expressed, but does reserve judgement as to what is distorted or sensational. Furthermore, judgment is based on a thoughtful review of the whole book (or other item), as well as consideration of reviews in responsible publications. In general, an item is not excluded from the collection on the basis of its faults alone; each item is judged in terms of weighing of faults and merits.

While collections are provided for children, use of public library materials is not restricted by staff according to a patron's age. Limitation in juvenile reading is considered a parental responsibility and not a function of the library.

Because it is the library's responsibility to acquire a wide range in subject and treatment, the choice of materials which will suit the personal taste is left of the individual

Complaints about the inclusion of a particular item in the library's collection should be directed to the director and then the library board and shall be in writing on a form provided by the library.

The library exists in a dynamic and changing world. Its collection must not remain stagnant if it is to serve the needs of such a world. The Paullina Public Library collection is maintained as a flexible, growing entity which reaches out to embrace new formats, as well as new ideas, sciences and arts, while at the same time keeping to its steady foundation of historical, traditional and classical materials.

No books, periodicals or videos shall be purchased for individuals for personal ownership.

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