

Blossburg Memorial Library Collection Development Policy

Mission Statement

The Blossburg Memorial Library provides, on equal terms, free, open, and equal access, and service to all individuals and groups. We strive to encourage curiosity and lifelong learning in friendly environment.

Goals/Objectives

The goals and objectives of the Blossburg Memorial Library as factors in selection of materials, include, but are not limited to the following:

- Dissemination of information
- Expansion of knowledge
- Development of skills
- Supplement formal study
- Encourage informal self-education
- Understanding and appreciation of literature and the arts
- Provision of multiple and diverse resources
- Personal well-being of patrons
- Support educational, civic, cultural and recreational activities within the community

Responsibility for Selection

The ultimate responsibility for selection of print and non-print materials as with all library activities rests with the Library Director who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Blossburg Memorial Library Board of Trustees. Any material so selected for the collection shall be considered to be selected by the Board of Trustees.

Selection Criteria

The following is a list of general criteria to be considered in selection of library materials. An item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable.

- Contemporary significance
- Reputation and/or authority of author, editor, or illustrator
- Literary merit
- Price
- Format
- Attention of critics, reviewers, media and public

- Potential relevance to community needs and interests
- Availability elsewhere in the community
- Sustained interest and entertainment
- Authenticity of historical, regional or social setting

Evaluation, Weeding, and Maintenance

In order to sustain a relevant collection of resources, the collection must be maintained by evaluating what has been obtained and withdrawing items no longer of value. Resources are regularly withdrawn from the collection by the library staff for the following reasons:

- Frequency of circulation
- Community interests
- Resource is no longer accurate, current or timely
- Item is physically worn or damaged beyond repair
- Fiction, once popular but no longer in demand
- Value to the collection has decreased
- Local history is an exception to these conditions

Withdrawn items may be sold at a modest price by the Friends of the Blossburg Memorial Library at publicly announced sales, with proceeds used by the Friends to enhance services of the library.

Censorship and Challenged Materials

A procedure is available to assure that objections or complaints about the Blossburg Memorial Library's resources are handled in an attentive and consistent manner. Material in the collection will be reconsidered upon completion of a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" form. Whenever censorship is involved, no materials shall be removed from the library except by a unanimous vote of the entire Board of Trustees.

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.

Memorials

Memorial books may be donated in honor of a friend or relative.

- Materials will be marked with a special bookplate.
- Materials should be satisfactory to both the donor and the library.
- The library will assume the responsibility for ordering memorial materials.
- The same criteria for weeding will be applied to memorial books as are applied to weeding the rest of the collection.

Gifts and Donations

Donated material is accepted with the understanding that any donated item is evaluated according to the Collection Development Policy. No donated items can be accepted with restrictive conditions unless the conditions are specifically approved by the director. The library cannot provide evaluations of donated items for tax purposes. Any donated item that is not added to the collection will be donated to the Friends of the Blossburg Memorial Library to be sold at a modest price at a publicly announced sale. The proceeds of the sale will be used to benefit the library.

Approved by the Blossburg Memorial Library
Board of Trustees on January 21, 2008

