

MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

1. Purpose

The goal of the Burlington Public Library is to provide a carefully curated collection of books and other materials for all individuals in the community. Library materials should reflect the community and provide access to different points of view, opinions and experiences. The Library shall provide materials and information representative of all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials will not be removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

2. Responsibility for Selection

While library staff participate in the selection of materials, **the library director is ultimately responsible for the selection of materials.**

3. Criteria for Selection

When selecting materials for the collection, the following criteria are considered:

- reviews in professional journals
- popular appeal/demand
- evident need in subject areas
- topical interest
- community interest/need
- relation to existing library holdings
- recreation

4. Interlibrary Loan

The Library will request, on behalf of the patron, items it does not own through interlibrary loan.

5. Gifts and Donations

Gifts shall be accepted with the stipulation that the Library is free to decide whether all or part of the gift shall be integrated into the collection, discarded, exchanged, or sold.

6. Weeding

Weeding, or re-selection of materials, shall be done on a regular basis in order to keep the collection balanced and up-to-date. The library director is responsible for the weeding of the collection and authorized by the Board of Library Directors. If, at the discretion of the library director, Library materials become dated, obsolete or uncirculated, they will be withdrawn from the collection. Weeded Library items may be used for:

- free giveaways
- sale by the Friends of the Library
- donation to nonprofit organizations
- appropriate waste disposal

7. Challenge of Materials

The choice of library materials by users is an individual matter. While a person may reject an item for themselves or their children, they cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to the materials for others. The Library respectfully considers complaints. Upon receiving a complaint by a patron, the library staff will offer the complainant a copy of the selection policy, the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read/View

statement. If the patron still wishes to pursue the complaint, he or she must completely fill out and submit a [request for reconsideration](#) to the library director. Complaint forms must be filled out by a Burlington resident or Burlington taxpayer. Upon receiving the written complaint, the Library Board will be notified, taking action where necessary.

[Request for reconsideration form](#)

The Burlington Public Library adopts the following fundamental rights relating to Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read:

1. [The Library Bill of Rights](#)
2. [The Intellectual Freedom: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)
3. [ALA's Freedom to Read Statement](#)
4. [The Resolution on Challenged Materials](#)
5. [The Statement on Labeling](#)
6. [The Statement on Restricted Access to Library Materials](#)
7. [The Freedom to View Statement](#)
8. [The Free Access to Libraries for Minors Statement](#)
9. [The Public Library, Democracy's Resource](#)
10. [Access for Children and Young People to Non-print Materials](#)
11. [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion](#)

Approved by the Board of Library Directors on 6/6/2023