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Collection Development Policy

The Ione Library District recognizes that its patrons are diverse, with different interests, backgrounds, cultural heritages, social values, and needs. The District further recognizes that public libraries provide free and convenient access to informational, cultural, educational, and recreational materials.

The District aims to provide equal access to all people. To achieve this goal, the District must ensure that its collections remains current and responsive to the needs of its patrons and that materials are easily accessible through appropriate technology.

Authority and Responsibility for Selection

The Library Director ultimately is responsible for selecting materials. S/he may authorize members of the staff who are qualified through education and training to select materials. The Board of Directors determines the policy for selecting and acquiring materials. All staff members and the general public are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration as well.

Intellectual Freedom

The District believes that the right to read and access materials of varying viewpoints is an important part of the intellectual freedom that is basic to democracy. The principles of intellectual freedom are guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Unites States Constitution. In keeping with those principles, the District will favour no viewpoint and subscribes to these basic documents as official policy:

1. The American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights;
2. ALA's Freedom to Read statement;
3. ALA's Freedom to View statement; and
4. ALA's Free Access to Libraries for Minors statement.

Selection Criteria

Materials are selected by trained staff members for their literary or artistic merit, accuracy, utility, entertainment value, and current or historical interest. Generally, except for items of special local interest or when it is possible to evaluate materials directly, items are selected based on favourable reviews, inclusion in special lists, patron or staff recommendations, popularity, or media coverage.

The District attempts to maintain a collection that includes material on most subjects and points of view, in keeping with the community's interests. The content of the present collection is constantly reviewed so that gaps in various subject areas and formats may be filled. Each item must be considered with appropriate standards for its type and audience. Some materials may be judged primarily in terms of artistic merit, scholarship, or historical significance; others are selected to satisfy recreational and entertainment needs. With restricted budgets and space, the District emphasizes quality rather than quantity, balancing the value of and demand for materials.

Final decision is based on the value and interest of the item to the public, regardless of the selector's personal tastes. These standards apply equally to purchased and donated materials.

Guidelines

Selectors will follow these basic guidelines while carrying out this policy:

1. The District is responsible for ensuring robust collections in all of its locations.
2. The District does not attempt to acquire textbooks or other curriculum-related materials unless such materials also serve the general public.
3. The District will acquire state and local historical materials. Local materials will be acquired and preserved for their historical value rather than their literary merits. Usual weeding practices do not apply to state and local historical materials.
4. Because the District serves a public embracing a wide range of ages, reading skills, and educational backgrounds, it will select materials of varying complexity.
5. In selecting materials for the collections, the District will be attentive to the special commercial, industrial, cultural, and civic enterprises of the area.
6. Since the District's collections cannot be totally comprehensive, special interest items may have to be borrowed through interlibrary loan.
7. The District endeavours to provide the most representative magazines and newspapers in a wide range of subjects.
8. Suggestions from the public for the purchase of materials are considered according to the District's general selection policies.

Access

The use of rare and scholarly items, or items frequently subject to damage or theft, may be controlled to protect the materials for future patrons.

Children are not limited to the juvenile collection, although juvenile collections are kept together to facilitate use. Responsibility for a child's selections rests with the parent/guardian, not with the District. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that children may inadvertently use the items. The parent/guardian who would rather his or her child not access certain materials should so advise the child.

Gifts

The District gratefully accepts gifts of materials but reserves the right to evaluate and dispose of such gifts in accordance with this policy. Donations may be tax-deductible, and the District may issue a receipt for donated items but will not appraise the gifts. Donations that are not added to the collection may be given to the Topic Club for their sales.

Collection Maintenance

The Library keeps its collection vital and useful by retaining or replacing materials and systematically removing works that are worn, outdated, of little historical significance, or no longer in demand. Any materials declared expendable must be approved by a trained staff member.

Local and Archival Collections

In order to meet the unique research needs of local researchers, the District collects and maintains materials pertaining to Oregon and the local area. These items may be kept in protected areas or be restricted to in-library use only. Copies may also be available in the circulating collection. Items in this collection include the following:

1. Histories for areas within Morrow County;
2. Yearbooks for the Ione School District;
3. Historical works on other regions of Oregon or on Oregon or the Pacific Northwest as a whole;
4. Other historically valuable works for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest generally;
5. Documents from governmental entities operating within Morrow County with historical value for District patrons;
6. Environmental documents affecting Morrow County with historical value;
7. Works in areas useful for genealogical research specific to Morrow County, or Oregon;
8. Rare and unusual fiction with historical value for Morrow County patrons.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Material

Whenever a patron objects to the presence of an item, the complaint will be referred to the Library Director.

If the patron wishes the District to remove or reclassify the material, s/he must complete the "Request for Reconsideration of Library Material" form. The Library Director will examine the item in question, check reviews, and determine whether it conforms to the standards of this policy. The Library Director will decide whether or not to withdraw the material in question and will write to the complainant, giving the reasons for the decision. If the patron is not satisfied by the Library Director's decision, the item will be referred to the Board of Directors for further review. Materials subject to complaint shall not be removed from use pending final action.