

Alexander Findley Community Library
Material Selection Policy

Policy:

The mission of the library is to “Create Opportunities for Learning and Sharing.” To that end, we set forth as our goal to select material to 1) Educate and Enlighten and 2) to provide Recreational Reading. Both are basic to the Library Bill of Rights.

To fulfill this goal the library will make every attempt to maintain a carefully selected collection of good, representative books of permanent value and of current interest. Each title is judged individually according to its intrinsic merit, the subject treated, reader interest, and the need for the book in an organized collection. Each title is judged as a whole, and isolated passages in themselves are not used as criteria. Purchase of any book, audiobook, DVD or other items in no way signifies agreement with the views expressed therein; nor does non-purchase signify disagreement.

Selection procedures for adult, young adult, juvenile, easy reader, and picture book materials will involve the search for the best materials available, relying on published reviews and the considered judgement of the director.

The children’s collection is selected to provide pleasurable reading for reading’s sake, and, as much as possible, to provide information in all areas of interest to children. The collection is carefully selected for children of all ages and abilities, and emphasis is placed upon books to stimulate imagination, mental growth, and the development of taste for good literature and the pleasure of reading.

Adolescent collections are chosen with the aim of helping the child find direction toward a useful, well-adjusted life within a community and gaining an understanding of the world at large. Books are selected to widen one’s thinking and enrich one’s life.

The library will provide, as far as possible, materials treating all sides of controversial issues—materials that give evidence of a sincere desire to be factual, that are written in a reasonable fashion, and that show results of careful study. Selections will not be made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection and the serving of the interest of readers. It should be clearly understood that the library feels strongly that the freedom to read and reach decisions independent of coercion or censorship of any kind is extremely important and the basic privilege of all the library’s patrons.

The library director and the Board of Trustees will review individual decisions regarding selections upon written request. Any request for reconsideration will be carefully reviewed.

Weeding:

The library collection will periodically be reviewed and any materials deemed to be too damaged for use, simply unused and rarely checked out, or materials containing information that is outdated and irrelevant will be removed from the collection, at the discretion of the library director in accordance with the long-range plan and patron needs. Weeding helps to maintain the library collection and to ensure adequate space for safely storing and using library materials.

Gifts:

The library accepts gifts of materials but reserves the right to evaluate in accordance with the selection policy applied to purchased materials. Gifts of books should be within the scope of the library's goals and will be reviewed by the director for acceptance.

05/22/00

03/24/17

07/24/23 (reviewed)