



DISPLAY POLICY

PURPOSE

The Longview Public Library's Display Policy provides a basis for the display of library materials by library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the library's mission, which is: Educate minds. Empower people. Enrich lives. Encourage life-long learning. Enhance connection.

POLICY

The Longview Public Library plays a vital role at the heart of the community by promoting full and equal access to information, encouraging the love of reading, enabling life-long learning, and empowering creativity. It will provide a responsive connection between the community's needs, its collections, information technology, and diverse programming, by, in part, providing a variety of displays, both physical and virtual, that inform and enrich the lives of people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.

PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by professional and paraprofessional employees. Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest.
- Availability of display space and library resources.
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance.
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events.
- Relation to library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs.

In addition, the Library draws upon other community resources in developing displays and exhibits, and may partner with other community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits.

The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays and exhibits, as well as offer displays and exhibits that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude images, topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered to be controversial. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Longview Public Library or the City of Longview of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in materials on display.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that each individual can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. In representing various sides of a question, the

Library thus provides citizens with reliable sources of information on which to base intelligent decisions in their daily lives.

The Library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons; displays which may be considered frank or offensive to some are permitted if they adhere to the Library's Display Policy and contribute to the furtherance of its mission.

Only parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to restrict the access of their children to library resources. The display of materials is not inhibited by the possibility that particular works may inadvertently be seen by or come into the possession of children and young adults.

Signage will be provided only as viewpoint-neutral directional aids to facilitate access by making it easier for users to locate materials. The materials are displayed on open shelves and are equally accessible to all users, who may choose to consult or ignore the directional aids at their own discretion.

The American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#), [Freedom to Read](#), and [Freedom to View](#) statements are the basis to the above policy.

PROCEDURES FOR THE RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY DISPLAYS

In the event a patron has questions or concerns regarding a library display, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The patron is referred to a professional staff member for a short conversation.
 - This staff member makes every attempt to satisfy the patron's concern by clarifying the established display policies on an informal, positive, one-to-one basis.
 - After the conversation, the staff member notifies the Library Director in a brief written statement as to the date, circumstances, and the result of the patron's concern.
2. A patron who wishes to pursue their question further is referred to the Library Director or their designated alternate as soon as possible for an interview. A concern taken to this level constitutes a formalized complaint.
 - During the interview with the patron, the Director or designated alternate fills out one copy of the Request for Reconsideration of Library Material form.
 - The Director then appoints a three-member committee of professional staff members to review the display in question and prepare a written recommendation within two weeks, fourteen (14) calendar days.
 - The Director makes a decision based on the committee's recommendation.
 - The Director notifies the patron in writing of their decision within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the committee's recommendation.

Recommended for approval: Jacob Cole

Approved by Library Trustee Board: May 8, 2023