

Maxwell Public Library Collection Policy

The Maxwell Public Library recognizes the need to provide the community with current unbiased and authoritative information and to promote enlightened citizenship, enrich personal lives and encourage self-education. The library goals are education, recreation and information for all without regard to race, religion, creed, color, sex, marital status, national origin, social or political views, or physical or mental disability.

The library director is primarily responsible for the selection of books and other materials for the collection. The library director and the library staff select materials on the basis of reviews found in standard library selection aids, advice of recognized experts as needed, and upon direct examination if practical. Other criteria for selection are the specific needs and interests of the community and the library's existing collection, services, and budget.

Qualities sought in selection of materials include permanent or timely value, authoritative, clear presentation, readability, and social significance. Textbooks are generally not acquired, nor are collector's items as such. Special group interests are balanced with general demand.

The library accepts suggestions and specific requests from the public and will purchase items appropriate to the collection.

The library supports the "American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights" and "Freedom to Read".

The library collection is a flexible, growing entity that embraces new formats, as well as new ideas, sciences, and arts while maintaining a foundation of historical, traditional and classical material.

In coverage of current issues, as well as historical patterns of ideology and thought, the library attempts to present high quality works on all sides of controversial issues.

The library believes strongly that books are vehicles for thought, and that as such, their censorship represents a violation of the freedom of thought which is an implied part of the freedom of speech. While the library does select its materials in an attempt to maintain a quality collection, it does not censor any book for reasons of religious or political beliefs expressed, but does reserve judgment as to what is political and religious in nature, and what is distorted or sensational. Judgement is based on a thoughtful review of the whole book or item as well as consideration of reviews found in responsible publications. In general, an item is not excluded from the collection on the basis of its faults alone; each item is judged in terms of weighing the faults and merits.

Use of library materials, with the exception of R-rated videos, is not restricted by staff according to a patron's age. Limitation in juvenile reading is considered a parental responsibility and not a function of the library.

Because it is the library's responsibility to acquire materials with a wide range of topics and treatments, the choice of materials is left to the individual.

Adopted:

President:

Secretary: