

# LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

## ARTICLE I

### Section 1.

The Jericho Public Library was established for the purpose of providing all the residents of School District # 15, from pre-school age through adulthood, with the best possible collection of books, and any other library materials to include audio/visual items, downloadables, games, databases, periodicals, and other resources. Materials will be selected for their high standards of quality, content, expression, and format. The Library's collection will aim at excellence in the educational and recreational areas as well as attempting to maintain a balanced representation of all areas of knowledge.

The Library will attempt to fulfill its obligation to its public by providing resources on all subjects. While the Library will not promote particular beliefs or points of view, it will provide resources where the individual can examine freely and make his own decision.

To this end, the Library Board of Trustees shall direct the library director, to be responsible for the overseeing of the selection of Library materials. The Library Director, in turn, is responsible to the Library Board. The Library Director will make certain that books and materials will be selected on the basis of this policy and not be based on personal interests or considerations.

## ARTICLE II

### Section 1.

The following criteria will be used in the selection of library materials: Which include Books, audio/visual items, downloadables, games, databases, and other resources,

- a) Materials will be selected that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards.
- b) Materials will be selected that will provide a background of information which will enable the Library's patrons to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
- c) Materials will be selected that will present opposing ideas and sides of controversial issues so that citizens may develop the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- d) Materials will be selected that will be representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage, and to the richness of our community.
- e) Materials will be selected that present the many and varied aspects of our society and culture even though some aspects may be considered to be unsavory.
- f) The value and impact of any literary work will be judged as a whole, taking into account the author's intent, rather than as individual words, phrases or incidents out of which it is made.

### Section 2.

Fictionalized library books and other library materials, will include works by promising current authors and artists as well as established classics, and will include a representative selection of materials by authors and artists of recognized stature.

No materials shall be purchased with library funds, or otherwise acquired, which falls within the current legal definition of obscenity, neither shall any materials be excluded because it is considered objectionable by one person or group. Controversial materials will be judged on the basis of overall merit and motive, not by individual passages taken out of context.

### Section 3.

Non-Fiction books and other non-fiction library materials will:

- a) provide the citizen with information about himself, his work, his community, the world and his place in it.
- b) provide the citizen with basic and significant works in the field of human endeavor including science, humanities and the arts.

In general, non-fiction materials of wide appeal will be preferred to those of highly specialized or technical nature. It is not deemed advisable to duplicate materials available in special libraries in the area. Neither can the Library supply school books (texts) which are available in the school and college libraries; however, a book will not necessarily be excluded because it is a text. Supplementation rather than duplication will be the guide in this area, thus avoiding unnecessary costs.

## ARTICLE III

### Section 1.

The Library has a responsibility to provide materials representing many points of view on topics of local, national and international significance, even though these views may be unpopular with the majority. Knowledge of minority opinions and all the facts, is essential to forming mature judgment on any issue; and adults should be free to read widely on controversial issues. For this reason, no material should be excluded or removed from the Library shelves solely because of the author's political, religious, or personal affiliations, or because it is considered objectionable by one person or group. Distribution of a material by the Library does not constitute endorsement of the author's views.

### Section 2.

The following statement from The Student's Right to Read, adopted by the National Council of Teachers of English, is fully endorsed by this Library Board of Trustees:

"...The right to read, like all rights guaranteed or implied within our constitutional traditions, can be used wisely or foolishly. In many ways education is an effort to improve the quality of the choices which are the exercise of this right. But to deny the opportunity of choice in the fear that it may be unwisely used is to destroy the freedom itself. For this reason, we respect the right of individuals to be selective in their own reading...but for the same reason we oppose efforts by individuals or groups to limit the freedom of choice of others or to impose their own standards or tastes upon a community at large."

This Board also subscribes to and adopts the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement of the American Library Association and the Book Publishers Council. The concluding paragraph of the Freedom to Read statement is particularly subscribed to:

"We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of books. We do so because we believe that they are good, possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours."

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

### Section 3.

The Library will place all circulating materials on the open shelves in the belief that all patrons should have free access to all materials purchased by the Library. If a patron finds that a particular book or other library material, is offensive to him/her, it is his/her privilege to refuse to use it; however, this judgment cannot be imposed by the Library on other adults in the community.

### Section 4.

Complaints regarding the selection of books and other library materials may be made in writing, using the attached form, and addressed to the Library Director. The Director will relay the complaint to the Library Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

## ARTICLE IV

Restriction of a child's access to Library materials and services is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

## ARTICLE V

Deaccessioning Policy:

Materials are regularly withdrawn from the Library's collection. Factors considered for removal of items are popularity, physical condition, space limitations, uniqueness of materials and the ability to obtain the same information elsewhere. Withdrawn materials in good condition may be made available for sale by the library.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Jericho Public Library	July 23, 1969
Revised	October 7, 1997
Revised	December 10, 2007
Revised	February 8, 2010