



Materials Selection Policy

(Approved 3/10/97)

Philosophy:

In keeping with the Monroe Free Library's mission to provide materials that support formal and lifelong independent learning as well as enrich the quality of life, the library strives to maintain a well-balanced and broad collection of materials for information, reference, research and pleasure.

Definitions:

The word "materials, has the widest possible meaning. It may include (but not be limited to) books, maps, magazines, journals, newspapers, music cds, all forms of video, book-on-cd and databases.

General Principles:

1) The responsibility for book selection rests with the Executive Director of the library who operates within the framework of policies determined by the library Board of Trustees. The Executive Director, in turn, may delegate this task to qualified professional staff, and acquire advice from individuals who possess expertise in various subject areas. The general public may recommend materials for consideration.

2) Selection may be based on a combination of various criteria including but not limited to:

a) Reviews from professional journals, newspapers and online resources

b) Advice from subject area experts



- c) Popular demand
 - d) Professional expertise
- 3) The following are considerations employed in the selection process:
- a) Current usefulness or permanent value
 - b) Authority and competence in presentation
 - c) Price, format and ease of use
 - d) Accuracy
 - e) Relation of work to existing collection
- 4) Gift materials will be judged by the same standards that apply to materials that are purchased.
- 5) The collection is maintained by retaining or replacing essential materials, removing on a systematic and continuous basis those works that are worn, outdated and/or inaccurate, or no longer in demand and acquiring new materials.
- 6) No library materials shall be excluded based on expressions of race, religion, nationality or political or social views.
- 7) The policy defends the principles of freedom to read, view or hear, and no material shall be removed from the collection save under the procedures for “Reconsideration of Library Materials” adopted by the Board of Trustees. (See Reconsideration Procedures).
- 8) The Board of Trustees has adopted and declared that it will adhere to and support:
- A) The Library Bill of Rights
 - B) The Freedom to Read Statement adopted by the American Library Association
 - C) The Free Access to Libraries for Minors Statement.