



## **Material Selection Policy**

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The Sharon Springs Free Library acquires and makes available materials, which inform, educate, entertain and enrich. In its selection of materials, the Sharon Springs Free Library endorses the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement, as adopted by the American Library Association. To achieve these ends, the Sharon Springs Free Library provides materials and services to patrons.

Since it is not possible for any library to acquire all materials, it is necessary that every library employ a policy of selectivity in acquisitions. The Sharon Springs Free Library provides, within its financial limitations, a collection of reliable materials embracing broad areas of knowledge. Included are works of enduring value as well as materials on current issues. Within the framework of those broad objectives, selection is based on community need, those expressed and patron interest and those inferred from study of community demographics and evidence of areas of interest and needs.

Material selection criteria may include:

### **Public Interest**

Public interest in given subject areas or specific materials will be determined in part through review of selection aids, direct demand, real-world events and issues, and relevant market trends.

Community programs may be supported through selected materials.

### **Accessibility to the user**

Library materials may differ from materials intended for individual use in a number of ways.

Considerations of format, content, intended audience, cost and other factors will inform the judgment of adequate fit for library use. The timeliness and current relevance of given items also has an effect on accessibility.

### **Appearance or rating in selection aids**

Reviews, descriptive content and citations are among the benefits offered by common selection aids. These sources primarily represent the perspective of the booksellers' and allied trades. Selection is informed, not dictated by review content. Primary sources include:

- Library Journal
- Ingram Curated Lists
- Booklist
- Consumer review websites
- School Library Journal
- Bestseller lists
- YALSA
- Kirkus Review
- Caldecott, Newberry awards
- Professional reputation of parties contributing to the creation of the materials

### **Selection Policy**

The professional reputation of content creators and producers may be judged using review sources noted above, general research, consultation with colleagues, and other recommendations.

**Current availability of similar material in the collection or library catalog**

Duplicate copies may be selected to satisfy temporary patron demand, anticipated future use, or to provide circulating copies of items otherwise restricted to in-library use. Duplicate copies may not be retained over time.

The library will challenge censorship of any materials in order to provide complete and accurate information on all sides of an issue, and to foster a climate of intellectual freedom for area residents. The library will not promote specific beliefs or views, but will provide suitable material to enable the public to make informed and intelligent decisions.

The responsibility for material selection lies with the Sharon Springs Free Library Director and Material Selection committee of the Board of Trustees. Impartiality and judicious selection shall be exercised in all material selection practices. Recommendations from the public are welcomed.

The choice of library materials by library users is an individual matter. While an individual may reject materials for themselves, they cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to materials by others. Any individual expressing an objection to or concern about library material should receive respectful attention. To this end, said individual may present said concern(s), either in person or in writing, to the Library Director and/or Board of Trustees.

The full text of the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Freedom to View as adopted by the American Library Association are located online:

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement>