

Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy

Policy Statement

The library board recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library collection. The board of trustees further recognizes that democracy functions only if a range of human ideas is accessible to the people and if proponents of various points of view are able to fully and openly make their cases, however popular or unpopular they may be. This principle is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which protects the free expression of ideas. It is exemplified by public libraries which provide access to those ideas in accordance with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. Thus, the library collection, protected by the First Amendment, is a marketplace of ideas which are contained in varied and divergent materials.

Regulations

1. The inclusion of an item or resource in the Library's collections is not an endorsement of a particular point of view or philosophy and the patron's choice of library materials for personal use is an individual matter. The Library's Material Selection Policy governs the criteria and manner of selection. While a person may reject materials for themselves and/or for their own children, a person cannot exercise censorship to restrict materials access to any others. Responsibility for the use of materials by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians.
2. A resident who objects to an item already in the collection or made electronically accessible by the library should discuss the reasons with a librarian for an explanation of the library's criteria for selection, acquisition or access.
3. Members of the public may not relocate books or other materials to which they object in an attempt to limit access for other patrons. Members of the public are subject to all policies of the Library, including the Code of Conduct, while pursuing any challenge to Library materials.
4. Residents in the service area can request a professional staff evaluation of material, which will be completed by a minimum of two librarians who are familiar with the collection and the intended audience, appointed by the library director. Professional staff evaluation of materials will be completed within 14 days per title and will be communicated in writing to the resident. Evaluation will consist of, but is not limited to, a close reading of the entire work, professional reviews, item usage statistics, press coverage and critical acclaim, and awards.
5. The item in question will be retained in the library's circulating collection until the professional staff, the library director, or the library board completes the review process and makes a determination.
6. The library director will evaluate if the material in question was acquired according to all Library policies, including the Material Selection Policy, and makes the final decision to retain, remove, or re-catalog the item. The library director will communicate that decision in writing to the resident. The resident in the library's

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service area may appeal the decision to the library board by completing and signing the *Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources* form in full. Incomplete forms will be referred back to the resident

- A. Items must be evaluated as a complete work, not excerpts.¹
 - B. Items cannot be banned from a library collection based on personal viewpoint as the only criteria for the request for removal.²
7. The library director and a minimum of one library trustee, appointed by the board president, will review the material in question and the resident's *Statement of Concern Regarding Library Resources*. Within 90 days of both receipt of the form and a copies of the title for evaluation, the reviewers will provide a recommendation to the board.
 8. The patron will be informed of the trustees' decision regarding the appeal. The decision of the library board is final.
 9. Items previously reviewed and retained by the library board shall not be reconsidered for removal for two years.
 10. The library collection will be organized and maintained to facilitate access. Any labeling, sequestering or alteration of materials because of controversy surrounding the materials will not be sanctioned.

Approved: September 19, 2022

Rochester Hills Public Library Board of Trustees

¹ Michigan Compiled Laws Public Act 343 of 1984

² Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853
Rochester Hills Public Library Policies