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Maryville Public Library Policy

Section E: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Subject 100.01: Programs, Displays & Outreach
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Adopted June 2023

Programs, Displays and Outreach

Local taxpayers provide the majority of funding for library materials and operation. The purpose of library displays is to bring attention to new items and to showcase the quality and diversity of materials available on topics that have broad or universal appeal among members of the library's taxpayer base. The purpose of library programs and outreach is to support the goals and objectives set by library trustees within the scope of the library's mission. It is our intention that a variety of local constituents with different viewpoints can find reliable resources of appeal and use in each library program and display.

The Library director may delegate display and program creation to specific support staff members. In making decisions, the Director or designated staff must consider the following:

1. Selection of topics should be based on the observed interests of the local service population, current library goals and objectives, and direct input from current cardholders such as item requests, circulation data, and survey feedback. Community-wide surveys within the taxing district can also be used to select program and display topics.
2. To the degree that is relevant and possible within the topic, displays and programs should reflect the physical, political, ideological, and generational diversity of the local service population.
3. Displays and programs regarding topics that are political, historical, or producing media debate, should include the best available resources from a variety of perspectives. Materials citing primary source material or recognized in core lists, bibliographies, and awards lists are examples of "best available materials."
4. "New books" displays should also reflect the diversity considerations above, so care should be taken by library staff selecting materials to incorporate diversity into regular ordering procedures.
5. Displays highlighting award nominees or "best of"/ "recommended" lists should be clearly labeled with the name and description of the organization recognizing those titles. Publishing industry groups and professional organizations can lack cultural balance, so if necessary, designated library staff should create a companion list and display of equally reliable resources offering alternative interests and viewpoints on the topics presented.
6. In accordance with the Missouri Secretary of State Regulation regarding protection of minors (*15 CSR 30-200.015*), all material displays on library grounds or at library outreach events must state age-appropriate designations as defined by MPL E:100: *Collection Development Policy*.
7. Items containing pictorial depictions of specific and explicit sexual acts as defined in RSMo 566.010 must not be displayed in areas designated for children under the age of 18, including at outreach events held at schools (RSMo 573.550*) or other areas used predominantly by minors.

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8. *RSMo 573.550 defines "Explicit sexual material" as *any pictorial, three-dimensional, or visual depiction, including any photography, film, video, picture, or computer-generated image, showing human masturbation, deviate sexual intercourse as defined in section 566.010, sexual intercourse, direct physical stimulation of genitals, sadomasochistic abuse, or emphasizing the depiction of postpubertal human genitals; provided, however, that works of art, when taken as a whole, that have serious artistic significance, or works of anthropological significance, or materials used in science courses, including but not limited to materials used in biology, anatomy, physiology, and sexual education classes shall not be deemed to be within the foregoing definition.*
9. MPL expects parents and caregivers to be present with all children while visiting the library.
10. Complaints concerning content in the Library's collection, programming, or displays must be filed in writing using a Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials, or Programs form (E-500). This form is available at the library desk and the library website. The request will be reviewed by the Library Director and any appropriate staff. The Director will respond to the individual in writing with the library's decision, based on such factors as the information provided by the user, personal examination, how well the item meets the criteria for materials selection, consultation of review sources for the item, and how the item fits within the overall collection. Individuals who still have concerns about the material may request a hearing before the Maryville Public Library Executive Board of Directors by making a written request to the President of the Board. The Board reserves the right to limit the length of presentation and number of speakers at the hearing. After receiving testimony from the public and from the library director, the Board will decide, based on the library's policies, whether to uphold or override the decision.