

Controversial Materials

The selection of materials on controversial issues will be directed towards maintaining a balanced collection representing various views. The library supports the American Library Association's statement policy on library philosophy as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights.

If library materials are questioned it is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to have the materials evaluated. The complainant must fill out, sign, and submit a request for Reconsideration and must follow the proper procedure.

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services:

1. Books and other resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to the creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.

Amended Feb. 2, 1961 and Jan. 23, 1980.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed Jan. 23, 1996.

By the ALA Council.

Request for Reconsideration

It is the policy of Blakesburg Public Library to accept written request for reconsideration of materials used in our library. Please use this form when initiating a request. Copies of the established procedures and additional forms are available in the library. Completed forms should be addressed to the Board of Trustees.

Author: _____

Title: _____

Format: _____

Publisher/ Producer: _____ Copyright Date: _____

Request initiated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Program or class in which material is used: _____

Person making request represents: His/ Herself _____ Group: _____

Organization: _____

Please use the back of the form or additional paper to address the following questions:

1. To what do you object?
2. What do you feel might result from use of the material?
3. For whom would you recommend this material?
4. Did you read the entire book, or view the entire film, etc.?
If not, which part did you read or view?
5. Are you aware of the judgment of this material by experts in the field?
6. What do you believe is the purpose of this material?
7. What would you like the Blakesburg Public Library to do about this?
8. What would you recommend replacing this item?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Request for Reconsideration Procedure

No challenged materials shall be removed from the library. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. The concurrence.

Procedure for Reconsideration:

1. All complaints shall be reported to the Library Board of Trustees whether received by telephone, letter, or in personal conversation.
2. The Board President shall contact the complainant to discuss the complaint and Attempt to resolve it informally by examining the philosophy and goals of the Library.
3. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the complainant shall be supplied with a copy of the library's selection policy and request for consideration form. The form must be completed and returned before consideration will be given to the complaint.
4. If the formal request for reconsideration has not been received within two weeks by the Board of Trustees the complaint shall be considered closed. If the request is returned, the original reason for selection of the work will be presented by appropriate staff.
5. No questioned material will be removed from the library pending the final decision.
7. Upon receipt of a completed objection form, the Library Director will send the form to the Board President.
8. The Board shall meet to discuss the material and shall prepare a report on the material having its recommendation on disposition of the matter. The Board may seek assistance from outside organizations such as the American Library Association, The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, etc., in making its determination.
9. The Board President shall notify the complainant of the decision.