



Policy Manual

COLLECTION

C2: Censorship and Intellectual Freedom

The Library is committed to the principle that the constitutionally protected freedoms of speech and press are enjoyed by all. To this end, the Library strives to offer a collection that represents the needs of our diverse community. Inclusion of an item in the collection does not mean that the Library endorses any theory or statement contained in those materials and resources.

While every patron may not agree with the viewpoints offered in some Library material, the Library has a responsibility to provide a balanced collection with access to material reflecting diverse ideas through which any side of a question, cause or movement may be explored, provided that the material meets the outlined selection criteria. The balanced nature of the collection is reflected in the diversity of materials, not in an equality of numbers. Patrons are free to choose what they like from the collection and to reject what they don't like, but not to restrict the freedom of others to choose.

The Library's collection may include proselytizing works representing political, economic, moral and religious or other vested positions when those works meet the selection criteria. Materials are not excluded because of the origin, background or views of those contributing to their creation, or because they represent a particular aspect of life, frankness of expression or controversial subject matter.

The Library does not use labels on any material in such a way as to show approval or disapproval of the content of that material. Materials are not sequestered to show approval, disapproval or judgment as to suitability of content for a particular audience. The Library does not remove or obliterate ratings attached to a material by a publisher, industry, group or distributor. Removing or altering such a rating, if they are placed there by or with permission of the copyright holder, denies access to the complete work and the entire spectrum of ideas that the material intended to express.

Decisions about what materials are suitable for particular children should be made by the people who know those children best –their parents or guardians. Selection of materials for adults is not constrained by possible exposure to children or teenagers.

The Library is committed to free and open access to its collections and to connecting people with the world of ideas, information and materials they wish to explore in a friendly, nonjudgmental manner.

Approved: May 1, 2010; Amended June 22, 2017

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Craig Messerknecht". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Craig Messerknecht
President
Novi Public Library Board of Trustees