

External Policies -----

4. Collection

4.1 Selection of Library Material

Responsibility for Selection - Responsibility for selection resides ultimately with the Director, subject to the policies of the Board of Trustees. The Director may partially or entirely delegate her authority to staff members who are deemed to have the training and experience necessary to interpret and apply the policy to the task of making day-to-day selections.

Selection - Selection is a critical and interpretive process involving a general knowledge of a subject and its important literature, a familiarity with the materials in the collection, an awareness of the bibliographies on the subject, and recognition of the needs of the community. An examination of current production and demand, book reviews, bibliographical publications, publishers' advertising media, and requests of library patrons are used in the process of selecting materials for library collections.

The library does not promulgate particular beliefs or views, nor is the selection of any given material equivalent to endorsement of the author's views. The library tries to provide materials representing all approaches to public issues of a controversial nature. It is aware that there are those who may take issue with the selection of any specific item and welcomes any expression of opinion by patrons. However, the library does not and effectively cannot undertake the task of trying to please all patrons by the elimination of items purchased after due deliberation under guidance of the policies expressed herein. To provide a resource where free individuals may examine many points of view and make their own decisions is one of the essential purposes of the Library.